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## EDITORIAL NOTE.

THIS is the first of three sections to comprise the revised Volume I. of *Slang and its Analogues*. The other two parts will follow at short intervals. Full details of issue were given in an Editorial Note to Part III. of Volume VI.

The next section to be sent out is Part II. Vol. VII. This is in the press, will shortly be ready, and will bring the work to within 150 pages of completion.

### A SMALL PERSONAL SOUVENIR OF MR. HENLEY'S WORK ON THIS DICTIONARY.

It is in truth but a small matter. Yet it has occurred to me that some subscribers to this Revised Volume I. (on which Mr. Henley was at work till within ten days of his death) might like to have for preservation in the volume a small personal souvenir of his work.

It was my colleague's habit to use 'correspondence cards' for criticism, notes, additional quotations, etc., and I find I have quite a fairly large number, all being in his own handwriting. Two of these cards mounted would make an appropriate additional page to be bound up in the volume, and I shall be very happy to supply any subscribers to this re-issue who desire them, if they will make *personal written* application for them. The supply is not, however, sufficient to go all round; so it must, I suppose, be, 'First come, first served.'

JOHN S. FARMER.

18 BURY STREET,  
BLOOMSBURY, LONDON, W.C.,  
20th August 1903.

# SLANG AND ITS ANALOGUES PAST AND PRESENT

A DICTIONARY HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE OF THE  
HETERODOX SPEECH OF ALL CLASSES OF SOCIETY  
FOR MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED YEARS

*WITH SYNONYMS IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN,  
ITALIAN, ETC.*

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

JOHN S. FARMER & W. E. HENLEY

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# A Dictionary of Slang and its Analogues.



A PER SE, *phr.* (old colloquial).—The best; first-class; *AI* (*g.v.*): see *Tip-top*. The usage became popular and was extended to other quoats. 1602 and

1603. *As subs.* = a paragon.

c. 1470. BLIND HARRY, *Wallace* [JAMIESON (1869), 20]. The APERSE of Scotland [Wallace].

1475. HENRYSON (or HENDERSON), *Test. Cressida* [SPEIGHT, *Chaucer*, v. 78]. The floure and A PERSE of Troie and Greece.

c. 1488. *Crying of Ane Playe* [LAING, *Early Pop. Poet, Scotland*, ii. 16]. The lampe, and A PER SE of this regioun, in al degré, Of welefair, and of honestie, Renowne, and riche array.

c. 1500. *MS. Cantab.* Ff. ii. 38, f. 51. [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet.*, i. 145]. Thow schalt be an APERSEY, my sone, In mylys ij or thre.

1501. DUNBAR, *Poems*, Suppl. (1865), 277. London, thowe arte of townes A PER SE.

1567. DRANT, *Horace Epist.*, ii. 1. If they make them A PER SE AES that none are like to them.

1568. ALEX. SCOT, *Poems* (1821), 34. That bird of bliss in beauty is In erd the only A PER SE.

1602. SHAKSPERE, *Tro. and Cress.*, i. 2. They say he is a very MAN PER SE, And stands alone.

1603. H. FETOWE, *Eliza's Funeral* [BRIDGES, *Restituta*, iii. 26]. And sing-  
ing mourne Eliza's funeral, The E PER SE  
of all that ere hath beene.

1610. *Mirr. for Mag.*, 371. Beholde  
me, Baldine, A PER SE of my age.

1609. KING, *Furnetary*, ii. AND  
PER SE AND alone, as poets use.

1797. INCHBALD, *Wives*, etc., ii. 1.  
She is willing to part and divide her love,  
share and share alike; but B will have all  
or none; so poor A must remain A BY  
HERSELF A.

AI, *phr.* (common).—Prime;  
first-class; of the best (see quot.  
1903). Also FIRST CLASS, LETTER  
A; AI COPPER-BOTTOMED; and  
AI AND NO MISTAKE: *Fr.*  
*marqué à l'A* (money coined in  
Paris was formerly stamped with  
an A). Cf. A PER SE.

1369. CHAUCER, *Troilus and Cress.*  
seide, 171. Right as our first LETTER is  
now an A, In beautie first so stood she  
makeles.

1833. MARRVAT, *Peter Simple*, xlivi.  
Broached molasses, cask No. 1, LETTER  
A.

1827. DICKENS, *Pickwick* (1847),  
341. 'He must be a first-rater,' said Sam.  
'A,' replied Mr. Roker.

1851. STOWE, *Dred.*, i. 313. An A NUMBER ONE COOK, AND NO MISTAKE.

1855. TAYLOR, *Still Waters*, ii. In short, you're A<sub>1</sub>, and I'm nobody.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, ii. vi. I want to be A<sub>1</sub> at cricket, and football, and all the other games.

1861. REYNOLDS'S, 24 Nov. The Chinese police are certainly A<sub>1</sub> at such work.

1860. TROLLOPE, *Phineas Finn*, xliii. I never heard such a word before from the lips of a young lady. Not as A<sub>1</sub>? I thought it simply meant very good. . . . A<sub>1</sub> is a ship—a ship that is very good.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 229. She's a prime girl, she is ; she is A NUMBER ONE, COPPER-BOTTOMED, and can sail as well in her stays as out of her stays.

1882. PUNCH, lxxxii. 181, 1. I give him a first-rate bottle of claret, a cup of A<sub>1</sub> coffee, a glass of old cognac, and the best cigar money can buy, and then I . . . find that his candid opinion coincides with my own.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 46. She sported her NUMBER ONE gloss on her hair, And her very best blush on her cheek.

1900. NISBET, *Sheep's Clothing*, 88. How proud he was of his sweetheart as he listened! She was A<sub>1</sub> at Lloyd's, AND NO MISTAKE about it.

1903. *Lloyd's Register*, 'Key.' The character A denotes New Ships, or Ships Renewed or Restored. The Stores of Vessels are denoted by the figures 1 and 2; 1 signifying that the Vessel is well and sufficiently found.

2. (Fenian : obsolete). — See quot. Sometimes (erroneously) NO. I.

c. 1866. H. J. BYRON, *MS. note* [HOTTON'S *Slang Dict.*, now in Brit. Mus.], s.v. A<sub>1</sub>. A title for the commander of 600 men.

NOT KNOWING GREAT A (or A B) FROM A BULL'S-FOOT (or A BATTLEDORE), *phr.* (old). — Ignorant ; illiterate. See B.

c. 1401. *MS. Digby*, 41, f. 5. I KNOW NOT AN A FROM THE WYND-MYLINE, Ne a B FROM A BOLE-FOOT, I trowe, ne thisif norther.

1609. DEKKER, *Gulf's Horns Booke*, 3. You shall not neede to buy booke, no, scorre to DISTINGUISH A B FROM A BATTLEDORE.

1630. TAYLOR, *On Coryat*. 'To the gentlemen readers that UNDERSTAND A B FROM A BATTLEDORE.'

1660. HOWELL, *Eng. Prov.*, 16. He KNOWETH NOT A B FROM A BATTLE-DOOR.

1846. BRACKENBRIDGE, *Mod. Chiv.*, 43. There were members who scarcely KNEW B FROM A BULL'S-FOOT.

WHAT WITH A, AND WHAT WITH B. See WHAT.

TO GET ONE'S A, *verb. phr.* (Harrow). — To pass a certain standard in the gymnasium : the next step is to the Gymnasium Eight.

TO GET A, *verb. phr.* (Felsted School). — To be (practically) free of all restriction as to bounds : nominally the other bounds were, B = the ordinary limit, the roads about a mile from the school ; C = punishment bounds, confinement to the cricket field and playground ; and D = confinement to the old school-house playground, one of the commonest forms of punishment till 1876, when the present school-house was opened. C and D were also known respectively as MONGREL and QUOD.

AARON, *subs.* (Old Cant). — 1. A CADGER (*q.v.*) ; a beggar mountain-guide. [GESENIUS : 'prob. Heb. AARON is a derivative of Hārōn = a mountaineer.']

2. (thieves'). — The leader of a gang : always with 'THE' as a prefix.

3. (old). — A leader of the church.

1607. TOPSELL, *Four-footed Beasts*, 'Ep. Dedic.' AARONS and such as sit at the Helme of the Church . . . I mean both Bishops and Doctors.

**AARON'S-ROD**, *subs. phr.* (venery). —The *penis*: see PRICK.

**AARS.** *See ARSE.*

**A.B.**, *subs. phr.* (nautical). —'An A[ble]-b[odied]' seaman.

1875. *Chambers' Jo.*, 627. Of all the European sailors by far the most reliable were five stalwart A.B.'s.

**ABAA**, *subs. and adj.* (common). —A term of contempt: generic. As *subs.* = a non-unionist: as *adj.* = vile, silly.

**ABACK.** TO TAKE ABACK, *verb. phr.* (colloquial). —To surprise; to check: suddenly and forcibly. [Orig. nautical: in which sense (O.E.D.) dating from 1754.]

1840. HOOD, *Up the Rhine*, 21. The boy, in sea phrase, was TAKEN ALL ABACK.

1842. DICKENS, *Amer. Notes*, 52. I don't think I was ever so TAKEN ABACK in all my life.

1848. BOSWORTH SMITH, *Carthage*, 95. For the moment TAKEN ABACK by the strange appearance.

**ABACTER** (or **ABACTOR**), *subs. (old).* —See *quot.* 1691.

1659. HAMMOND, *On Psalms*, cxliv. 14. 666. Invaders and AACTORS, whose breaking in . . . is attended with the cattels passing through or going out.

1601. BLOUNT, *Law Dict.* AACTORS (*abactores*) were stealers of Cattle or Beasts, by Herds, or great numbers; and were distinguished from *Fures*.

1818. *Annual Register*. [Abridged.] One of the tricks of the AACTERS of old Smithfield was the driving a bullock into a Jeweller's or other shop, and during the confusion the AACTER's confederates would help themselves to any valuables handy . . . one shop was so served three times in the year.]

1829. LAMB, *Corr. with Procter*, 29 Jan. I thought . . . the AACTOR or AACTOR's wife (*vide* Ainsworth) would suppose she had heard something; and I have delicacy for a sheep-stealer.

**ABADDON**, *subs.* (thieves'). — A thief turned informer; a SNITCH-ER (*q.v.*). [Obviously a Jew fence's punning reference to Abaddon = the 'angel of the bottomless pit': Rev. ix. 11.]

**ABANDANNAD** (or **ABANDAN-NAAD**), *subs.* (thieves'). —I. A handkerchief (or bandanna) thief. Hence (2) a petty thief. [BREWER: 'A contraction (*sic*) of a bandanna lad.']

**ABANDONED HABIT**, *subs. phr.* (obsolete). — In *pl.* = spec. the riding demi-monde in Rotten Row.

**ABBER**, *subs.* (Harrow). —I. An abstract; (2) an ABSIT (*q.v.*).

**ABESS** (or **LADY ABESS**), *subs.* (old). —A bawd; a stewardess of the STEWS (*q.v.*): cf. ABBOT; NUN; SACRISTAN, etc. (GROSE).

1770. FOOTE, *Lame Lover*, i. Who should trip by but an ABESS, well known about town, with a smart little nun.

1782. WOLCOT [P. Pindar], *Odes to the Pope*, Ode ii. [Works (Dublin, 1795), ii. 492]. So an old ABESS, for the rattling rakes, A tempting dish of human nature makes, And dresses up a luscious maid.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. 1. Those three nymphs . . . are three nuns; and the plump female is of great notoriety, and generally designated the ABESS.

1840. W. KIDD, *London and all Its Dangers*. Wretches who traffic in the souls and bodies of their helpless victims are called LADY ABESSES.

**ABBEY.** TO BRING AN ABBEY TO A GRANGE, *verb. phr.* (old). —To squander. Also ABLE TO BUY AN ABBEY (RAY: 'we speak it

of an unthrift'). Among kindred expressions are: To bring a noble to ninepence; to make of a lance a thorn; to make of a pair of breeches a purse; to thwite a mill-post to a pudding-prick; 'His windmill is dwindled into a nut-cracker'; from abbess to lay-sister.

**ABBEY-LAIRD**, *subs. phr.* (old Scots).—An insolvent debtor: spec. of one sheltered in the sanctuary of Holyrood Abbey.

1700. FOUNTAINHALL, *Decisions*, II. 518. If he offered to go back to the Abbey, and was enticed to stay, and hindered to go.

c. 1776. *Cock Laird* [HERD, *Baillads*, II. 36]. When broken, frae care The fools are set free, When we make them COCK LAIRDS IN THE ABBEY, quoth she.

1861. CHAMBERS, *Dom. Ann. Scot.*, III. 349. The ABBEY LAIRDS . . . were enabled to come forth on that day [Sunday], and mingle in their wonted society.

**ABBEY-LUBBER (or LOON)**, *subs. (old)*.—An idler; a vagabond: orig. (prior to the Reformation) a lazy monk or hanger-on to a religious house. Hence ABBEY-LUBBER-LIKE = lazy, thriftless, ne'er-do-well. See LUBBER.

1509. BARCLAY, *Poems* (Percy Soc., xxii. p. xxxvii). [An] ABBEY LOWNE or limner of a monke.

1538. STARKY, *England* (1871), 131. The nuryschynge also of a grete sorte of idul ABBEY-LUBBARYS wych are apte to no thyng but . . . to ete and dynke.

1563. *The Burnyng of Paules Church* [HALLIWELL]. The most of that which they did bestow was on the riche, and not the poore indeede / . . . but lither LUBBERS that might wroke and would not. In so much that it came into a commen proverbe to call him an ABBEY-LUBBER, that was idle, wel fed, a long lewd lither loiterer, that might wroke and would not.

1570. BARNABE GOOGE, *Popish Kingdome*, II. 23. So ABBEY LUBBER LYKE they liue & Lordes they called bee.

1589. NASHE, *Anat. Abbr.*, 7. Those exiled ABBEY-LUBBERS, from whose idle pens, proceeded those worne out im-pressions of the feyned no where acts, of Arthur of the rounde table.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Archimarmiton-crastique*, an ABBEY-LUBBER, or Arch-frequenter of the Cloyster beefe-pot or beefe-boyler.

1648. HERRICK, *Hesperides*, 'The Temple', i. 128. Of Cloyster-Monks they have now, I, and their ABBEY-LUBBERS, too.

1655. FULLER, *Church History*, I. v. 28. Abbey labourers, not ABBEY-LUBBERS like their Successours in after-Ages.

1680. DRYDEN, *Spanish Friar*, iii. 3. This is . . . no huge, overgrown ABBEY LUBBER; this is but a diminutive SUCKING friar.

1693. ROBERTSON, *Phras. Gen.*, 446. A porridge-belly Friar, an ABBEY LUBBER.

1705. HICKERINGILL, *Priest-Cr.*, II. iv. 45. The Dissolution of Monasteries that fed ABBEY-LUBBERS and wanton Nuns.

**ABBOT**, *subs. (old)*.—A bawd's man; a PONCE (*q.v.*): see ABBESS. Whence ABBOT ON THE CROSS (or CROZIERED ABBOT)=the BULLY (*q.v.*) of a brothel.

**ABBOT (or LORD) OF MISRULE**, *subs. phr. (old)*.—The leader of the Christmas revels: see quots. Also (Scots) ABBOT OF UNREASON, and Fr. *Abbd de Liesse* (=Abbot of Joy).

1501. LVLY, *Endimion*, v. 2. No Epi, love is a LORD OF MISRULE, and keepeth the Christmas in my corps.

1603. STOWE, *London*, 72. First, at Christmasse, there was in the kinge's house, wheresoever hee was lodged, a LORD OF MISRULE, or mayster of merie disporters, and the like had ye in the house of every noble man, of honor or good worshipe, were he spirituall or temporall. —These lordes, beginning their rule on Alhollon eve, continued the same till the morrow after the feast of the Purification, commonly called Candlemas day. In all which space there were fine and subtle disguisings, masques, and mummeries, etc.

1822. NARES, *Glossary*, s.v. MIS-RULE. There is little doubt that all these contrivances for encouraging and enlivening the sports of Christmas, were derived from the more ancient feast of the *Boy-Bishop*, which being found superstitious, and liable to various abuses, was put down by proclamation, in 1542.

**ABBOTTS' PRIORY**, *subs. phr.* (obsolete). — The King's Bench prison: **ABBOT'S PARK** = the rules thereof (GROSE, 1823, BEE). [Sir Charles Abbott, afterwards Lord Tenterden, was Lord C.-J. of the King's Bench, 1818.]

**A, B, C (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (common). — 1. The A, B, C (=Alphabetical) Railway Guide.

2. (London). — An establishment of the Aerated Bread Company: orig. bakers, now refreshment caterers. Hence A.B.C.-GIRL = a waitress therein.

3. (Christ's Hospital). — *Ale, Bread and Cheese* on 'going home night.'

4. (old). — Generic for beginnings. Thus, *LIKE* (or AS EASY AS) A B C = facile, as simple as learning the alphabet; **DOWN TO THE A B C** = down to first principles, or the simplest rudiments.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *King John*, i. 1. And then comes answer *LIKE AN ABSEY BOOK*.

1899. WHITEING, *John Street*, iv. He lacks everything—clothing, flesh to hang it on, all the amenities presumptively down to the A B C.

5. (venery). — The female *pu-dendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

**ABEAR**, *verb.* (colloquial or vulgar). — To endure; to suffer. [O.E.D. : 'A word of honourable antiquity; widely diffused in the

dialects; in London reckoned as a vulgarism.' Quots. are given dated 885, 1175, and 1230, with a gap to 1836-7 *infra*.]

1836. DICKENS, *Sketches* (1850), 151. 2. The young lady denied having formed any such engagements at all—she couldn't ABEAR the men, they were such deceivers.

1855. ATKINSON, *Whitby Glossary*, s.v. She cannot ABEAR that man, very much dislikes him.

1864. TENNYSON, *Northern Farmer*, 64. I couldn't ABEAR to see it.

**ABEL**. *See INDORSE.*

**ABELWHACKETS**. *See ABLEWHACKETS.*

**ABERDEEN CUTLET**, *subs. phr.* (common). — A dried haddock: cf. BILLINGSGATE PHEASANT.

**ABIGAIL**, *subs. (old).* — A waiting-woman; a lady's maid. [Abigail, a waiting gentlewoman in *The Scornful Lady* (1616) by Beaumont and Fletcher: also see 1 Sam. xxv. 24-31.] Hence **ABIGAILSHIP** (GROSE). Cf. ANDREW, ACRES, etc.

1663. KILLIGREW, *Parson's Wedding*, ii. 6 [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1780), xi. 390]. The welcomest thing to Mrs. Abigail [a waiting woman], except Tib and Tom in the stock.

1666. PEPYS, *Diary*, iv. 195. By coach to the King's play-house, and there saw 'The Scornful Lady' well acted; Doll Common doing ABIGAIL most excellently, and Knipp the widow, very well.

1693. CONGREVE, *Old Bachelor*, iii. 6. I begin to smoke ye: thou art some forsaken ABIGAIL we have dallied with. *Ibid.* (1700), *Way of the World*, v. 1. A botcher of second-hand marriages between ABIGAILS and Andrews.

1694. *Reply to Lad. and Bach. Petit*. [HARL. MISC., iv. 440]. Whereas they [the chaplains] petition to be freed from any obligation to marry the chamber maid, we can by no means assent to it; the ABIGAIL, by immemorial custom, being a deodand, and belonging to holy Church.

d. 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 6. It is ten to one but there is an ABIGAIL . . . that must be married.

1709. WARD, *Terra filius*, vi. 11. ABIGAIL . . . was Aminidab's servant till happening to uncover her Nakedness . . . he thought it best . . . to take the Damsel to Wife.

1715. ADDISON, *Drummer*, ii. 1. Here comes Abigail, I must tease the baggage.

1727. SOMERVILLE, *Fables*, 'Officious Messenger.' Her ladyship began to call, For hartshorn and her ABIGAIL.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (1812), iv. I know well enough how to behave with ABIGAILS and actresses.

1750. FIELDING, *Tom Jones*, xi. ii. The mistress was no sooner in bed than the maid prepared to follow her example. She began to make many apologies to her sister ABIGAIL for leaving her alone.

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humphry Clinker* (1815), 57. An antiquated ABIGAIL dressed in her lady's cast clothes.

1803. JANE PORTER, *Thaddeus* [WARNER], 72. The appellation 'Mistress' put her in mind of her . . . ABIGAILSHIP.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], iii. This precious ABIGAIL . . . was just as young, just as pretty, and just as loose as her mistress.

1827. LYTTON, *Pelham*, xxiii. At the end of that time the ABIGAIL released me.

1837. CARLYLE, *Diamond Necklace*. Mantua-maker, soubrette, court-beggar, fine lady ABIGAIL, and scion of royalty.

1858. ELIOT, *Mr. Gilfil's Love-Story*, iii. Mrs. Sharp, then a blooming ABIGAIL of three-and-thirty, entered her lady's private room.

1900. LYNCH, *High Stakes*, viii. Van Duyn turned to the ABIGAIL. 'May we open the window?' 'If the gentleman pleases,' the woman returned stiffly.

**ABINGDON-LAW**, *subs. phr. (old)*.—Summary punishment: cf. STAFFORD-LAW; LYDFORD-LAW; SCARBOROUGH-WARNING, etc. [In 1645, lord Essex and Waller held Abingdon, in Berks, against Charles I. The town was unsuccessfully attacked by Sir

Stephen Hawkins in 1644, and by prince Rupert in 1645. On these occasions the defenders put every Irish prisoner to death without trial.]

**ABLEWHACKETS** (or **ABELWHACKETS**), *subs. (nautical: obsolete)*.—See quot. (GROSE).

1867. SMYTH, *Sailor's Word Book*, s.v. **ABLE-WHACKETS**. A popular sea game with cards, wherein the loser is beaten over the palms of the hands with a handkerchief tightly twisted like a rope. Very popular with horny-fisted sailors.

**ABOARD**, *adv. (old)*.—See quot.

1758. DUCHE, *Dict.*, s.v. **ABOARD**. In sports and games this phrase signifies that the person or side in the game that was either none, or but few, has now got to be as many as the other.

**ABOUT**. See **EAST** (Suppt.); **RIGHT**; **SIZE**.

**ABOVE**. See **BEND**; **PAR** (Suppt.); **HOOKS**; **HUCKLEBERRY**; **PER-SIMMON**.

**ABRACADABRA**, *subs. (old)*.—1. A cabalistic word, formerly used as a charm. Hence (2), any word-charm, verbal jingle, gibberish, nonsense, or extravagancy.

Additional MSS. [Brit. Mus.], 5008. Mr. Banester sayth that he healed 200 in one yer of an ague, by hanging ABRACADABRA about ther necks, and wold stanch blood, or heal the toothake, althoigh the partyes wer 10 myle of.

1687. AUBREY'S *Remaines of Gentilism*, 124 (1881). [In this work ABRACADABRA is given arranged trianglewise, as a spell.] *Ibid.* (1696), *Misc.*, 105. ABRACADABRA, a mysterious word, to which the superstitious in former times attributed a magical power to expel Diseases.

1711. *Spectator*, No. 221. I would not have my reader surprised, if hereafter he sees any of my papers marked with a Q, a Z, a Y, an &c., or with the word ABRACADABRA.

1722. DEPOE, *Journal of the Plague* [BRAVLEY (1835), 56]. ‘This mysterious word [ABRACADABRA], which, written in the form of a triangle or a pyramid, was regarded as a talisman or charm of wonderful power. It originated in the superstitions of a very remote period, and was recommended as an antidote by Serenus Samonicus, a Roman physician, who lived in the early part of the third century, in the reigns of the emperors Severus and Caracalla. Its efficacy was reputed to be most powerful in agues and other disorders of a febrile kind, and particularly against the fever called by the physicians Hemitritus.’

1829. COLERIDGE, *Aids to Reft.* (1848), i. 130. ‘Leave him . . . to retaliate the nonsense of blasphemy with the ABRA-CADABRA of presumption.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, ‘Lay of St. Dunstan.’ The words of power! . . . I know there are three, And ABRACADABRA . . . is one of them.

1879. *Literary World*, 5 Dec., 358, 2. ‘The new ABRACADABRA of science, ‘organic evolution.’

**ABRAHAM**, *subs.* (venery).—1. The *penis*: see PRICK and *cf.* ABRAHAM’S BOSOM = the female *pudendum*.

2. (East End).—A cheap clothier’s; a SLOP (*q.v.*), or HAN-ME-DOWN shop (*q.v.*). Hence, ABRAHAM WORK = ill-paid work; sweated labour (see ABRAHAM-MAN).

*Adj.* (old).—1. ‘Auburn’: formerly written *abern* and *abron*. ALSO ABRAM and ABRAHAM-COLOURED.

1592. KYD [?], *Soliman and Perseda* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), v. 363]. ‘Where is the eldest son of Priam, That ABRAHAM-COLOURED Trojan?’

1599. HALL, *Satires*, III. v. 7. ‘A lustie courtier whose curled head, With ABRON locks was fairely furnished.

1602. MIDDLETON, *Blurt, Master Constable*. ‘Over all A goodly, long, thick, ABRAHAM-COLOUR’d beard.

1607. SHAKSPEARE, *Coriolanus*, ii. 3. 21. Some brown, some black, some ABRAM [folio 1683 ‘AUBURN’], some bald.

1627. PEACHAM, *Complete Gent.*, 155. I shall pass to the exposition of certain colours—ABRAM-COLOUR, *i.e.* brown, AUBRENE or ABBORNE, *i.e.*, brown or brown-black.

1656. LAU. PRICE, *Jack in a Box* [ASHTON, *Humour*, etc., 200]. Browne, or ABRAHAM COLOUR, that’s halfe Nits and hal’ Lice.

2. *See ABRAHAM-MAN.*

**ABRAHAM GRAINS**, *subs.* (thieves’: obsolete).—A publican brewing his own beer.

**ABRAHAM-MAN** (ABRAM, ABRAM-MAN or ABRAM-COVE), *subs.* *phr.* (Old Cant).—*See* *quots.* : also BEIDLAM BEGGAR (*q.v.*) and TOM OF BEDLAM. [These sturdy beggars roamed the country, begging and stealing, down to the period of the Civil Wars.] Hence TO SHAM (or DO) ABRAM (or TO ABRAHAM SHAM) = (1) to feign madness; and (2) to sham sick (nautical). Also ABRAM, *adj.* = (1) naked (GROSE), (2) = mad, and (3) = shamming sick; ABRAHAM-WORK = shams of all kinds, false pretences: whence TO GO ON THE ABRAHAM SUIT = to resort to trick or artifice. *See ABRAHAM*, *subs.* 2. [The Mad Tom of *King Lear* is an Abram-man: see Edgar’s description, iii. 4.]

1567. AWDELEY, *Frat. of Vacabondes*. ‘An ABRAHAM-MAN is he that walketh bare-armed, and bare-legged, and fayneth hymself mad, and cariyeth a packe of wool, or a stycke with baken on it, or such lyke toy, and nameth himself poore Tom.

1575. HARMAN, *Caveat* (1814), 29. These ABRAHAM MEN be those that fayn themselves to have bene mad, and have bene kept either in Bethlehem, or in some other pryson a good time, and not one amongst twenty that ever came in prison for any such cause.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Mar-kall*, 36 (H. Club's Rept., 1874). ABRAM madde. He maunds ABRAM, he begs as a madde man.

1622. FLETCHER, *Beggar's Bush*, ii. 1. Jarkman, or Patrico, Cranke, or Clapper-dudgeon, Frater, or ABRAM-MAN; I speak to all That stand in fair election for the title Of king of beggars.

1625. MASSINGER, *New Way to Pay Old Debts*, ii. 1. Are they padders or ABRAM-MEN that are your consorts?

1632. DEKKER, *Eng. Villasies*. The ABRAM COVE is a lustie strong rogue who walketh with a slate about his quarrons.

1671. R. HEAD, *English Rogue*, i. v. 47 (1874). ABRAM, naked.

c. 1666. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. ABRAM-MEN, c. the seventeenth Order of the Canting-crew. Beggers antickly trick'd up with Ribbands, Red Tape, Foxtails, Rags, etc., pretending Madness to palliate their Thefts of Poultrey, Linnen, etc.

1724. E. COLES, *Eng. Dict.* ABRAM COVE, naked or poor man.

1759. GOLDSMITH, *Citizen of the World*, cxix. He swore that I understood my business perfectly well, but that I SHAMMED ABRAM merely to be idle.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. ABRAM COVE. A cant word among thieves, signifying a naked or poor man; also a lusty strong rogue. *Ibid.* ABRAM SHAM. To pretend sickness.

1822. NARES, *Glossary*, s.v. ABRAM-MEN. A set of vagabonds, who wandered about the country, soon after the dissolution of the religious houses; the provision for the poor in those places being cut off, and no other substituted.

1825. SCOTT, *St. Ronan's Well*, xxii. There is a trick for you to find an ABRAM-MAN, and save sixpence when he begs as a disbandied seaman.

1839. HOOD, *Ode to Raz Wilson*. I own I shake my sides at ranters, And treat SHAM ABR'AM saints with wicked banters.

1849. BRÖNTÉ, *Shirley*, xxxiii. Matthew, sceptic and scoffer, . . . muttered some words, amongst which the phrase SHAMMING ABRAM had been very distinctly audible.

1859. MATSELL, *Vocabulum*, s.v. ABRAM COVE. A naked or poor man; a beggar in rags.

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Good Night*. You cadgers on the ABRAM-SHAM.

1890. BESANT, *Orange Girl*, 148. Your Cousin Mathew is as mad as an ABRAM-MAN.

**ABRAHAM NEWLAND**, *subs.* — A bank note (GROSE, BEE). [Abraham Newland was chief cashier to the Bank of England, from 1778 to 1807.] Hence TO SHAM ABRAHAM = to forge bank paper (see ABRAHAM-MAN).

c. 1778-1807. DIBBIN, *Song*. I have heard people say that SHAM ABRAHAM you may; ah, every day; But you must not SHAM ABRAHAM Newland.

1829. SCOTT, *Letter* [Croker Papers, ii. 36]. A bank note seems to terrify everybody out of their wits, and they will rather give up their constitution to Hunt and Cobbett than part with an ABRAHAM NEWLAND to preserve it.

**ABRAHAM'S-BALM**, *subs. phr.* (old). — Hanging: see LADDER.

**ABRAHAM'S-BOSOM**, *subs. phr.* (common). — I. Dead and gone to heaven: cf. quot. and Luke xvi. 22.

1599. SHAKSPEARE, *Henry V.*, ii. 3. Nay, sure [Falstaff's] not in hell: he's in Arthur's bosom, if ever man went to Arthur's bosom.

2. (venery). — The female pudendum: see MONOSYLLABLE.

**ABRAHAM'S EYE**, *subs. phr.* (old). — See quot.

15[?]. *M.S. on Magic*. [Here given as a magical charm, the application of which was supposed to deprive a thief, who refused to confess his crime, of eyesight.]

**ABRAHAM'S WILLING**, *subs. phr.* (rhyming). — A shilling: see RHINO.

**ABROAD**, *adv.* (colloquial). — I. Wide of the mark; out of one's reckoning; perplexed.

1821. *Fancy*, i. 255. In the fourth round he came in ALL ABROAD, and got a doublet in the bread-basket.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Legends*, 'Legend of Dover.' To be ALL ABROAD— to be 'stumped', not to know where To go—so disgraced.

1838. DICKENS, *Nick. Nickleby*, vi. 33. I'm only a little ABROAD. *Ibid.* (1840), *Old Curiosity Shop*, lxi. 'My friend!' repeated Kit, 'you're ALL ABROAD, seemingly,' returned the other man.

1846. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, v. At the twelfth round the latter champion WAS ALL ABROAD . . . had lost all presence of mind, and power of attack or defence.

1856. M. ARNOLD, *Lit. and Dogma*, 244. The first deals successfully with nearly the whole of life, while the second is all ABROAD in it.

**TO COME ABROAD**, *verb. phr.* (Winchester Coll.).—To return to school work after sickness. When on the sick list he is CONTINENT (*q.v.*): cf. Old Eng. usage=out of one's house or abode (LANGLAND, UDALL, SHAKSPEARE). Also **TO BE FURKED ABROAD**=to be sent back to school after going 'Continent': an implication of shamming.

**ABROADED**, *adj. and adv. (old).*—See *quot.* and cf. **ABROAD**.

1876. MANTON, *Slangiana*, II. Fashionable slang for a noble defaulter on the Continent (*sic*) to avoid creditors. It was police slang for convicts sent to a colonial or penal settlement, but it is also applied by thieves to imprisonment merely.

**Ass, intj.** (Winchester Coll.)—i. 'Absent': placed against the name of a boy when absent from school.

*Verb.* — i. To take away. Formerly, *circa* 1840, **TO ABS** a toly (candle), meant to put it out; now it = to take it away,

whether lighted or unlighted: the modern NOTION (*q.v.*) for putting it out being to 'dump' it.

2. To get (or put) away; generally in the imperative: *e.g.* 'ABS!' Hence, **TO ABS** quickly = **TO STIR ONE'S STUMPS** (*q.v.*) or to put things away with speed. **TO HAVE ONE'S WIND ABSED** = to get a BREATHER (*q.v.*) in the stomach.

**ABSCOTCHALATER**, *subs.* (thieves').—'One in hiding from the police': cf. **ABSQUATULATE**.

**ABSENCE**, *subs.* (Eton).—Names-calling.

1856. LETTSOM, *Foggawaya*, 6. So the Lord of Puggawaugin Laid on them an extra ABSENCE.

1865. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 8 June, 10. ABSENCE, as it is called at Eton, requiring the presence of the boys to answer their names.

1867. COLLINS, *Public Schools*, 174. The elevens were made up, as they best might, out of such adventurous spirits as dared to skip 'roll-calls' and ABSENCE for the purpose.

**ABSENT.** **ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE**, *adv. phr.* (thieves').—Said of one who has broken prison; or (common) absconded.

**ABSENTEE**, *subs.* (Australian).—A convict.

1837. JAS. MUDIE, *Felony of New South Wales*, vii. The ludicrous and affected philanthropy . . . advertising runaway convicts under the soft and gentle name of **ABSENTEES**.

**ABSENT-MINDED BEGGAR**, *subs.* *phr.* (common).—**TOMMY ATKINS** (*q.v.*): popularised by Kipling's verses in aid of the wives and children of soldiers serving in South Africa during the Boer War.

**ABST**, *subs.* (Cambridge).—See *quot.*

1886. DICKENS's *Dictionary of the University of Cambridge*, p. 3. Every undergraduate wishing to leave Cambridge for a whole day, not including a night, must obtain an ABSIT from his tutor. Permission to go away for a longer period . . . is called an 'eexit.'

**ABSKIZE** (or **ABSCHIZE**), *verb* (American).—To decamp: *see BUNK*. [Said to be of Western origin, *circa* 1833.]

**ABSQUATULATE** (or **ABSQUOTI-LATE**), *verb*. (American).—To decamp; to SKEDADDLE (*q.v.*). *See BUNK*.

1833. BERNARD, *The Kentuckian*. [It is stated that 'ABSQUATULATE' was first used in this play. The 'book,' however, is 'un-get-at-able' this side of the Atlantic.]

1840. HALIBURTON, *Clockmaker*, 3 S. xiv. What's the use of legs but to ABSQUATULATE with . . . when traps are set for you?

1847. *New York Herald* [BARTLETT]. W. was surrendered by his bail . . . fearing he was about to ABSQUATULATE.

1856. DOW, *Sermons*, I. 247. Hope's brightest visions ABSQUATULATE with their golden promises . . . and leave not a shin-plaster behind.

1861. LAMONT, *Seahorses*, xi. 179. He . . . heard us . . . and prepared to ABSQUATULATE.

1867. BROUGHTON, *Cometh Up as a Flower*. You'd thank me to ABSQUATULATE, as the Yankees say. . . . I will in a minute.

1879. *Punch*, 18 Jan., 23. I. I hope I may be occasionally permitted to enjoy it again. *Bows*, and ABSQUATULATES.

1884. *D. Telegraph*, 20 August, 6. I. In Rabelaisian phrase, 'absquashed and ABSQUATULATED.'

**ABUSE**, *subs.* (old: now mainly conventional).—I.—Defloration; (2) copulation; and (3) masturbation. As *verb* = (1) to violate; (2) to copulate; and (3) TO FRIG (*q.v.*). Hence **ABUSER** = (1) a

seducer, a ravisher; (2) a MUTTON MONGER (*q.v.*); and (3) a masturbator.

1553. LVNDESAY, *Monarchia*, I. 1236. Quhow men and wemen shamefullie ABUSIT thame selfis vnnaturallye.

1580. SIDNEY, *Arc.*, II. Was it not enough for him to have deceived me, and through the deceit ABUSED me, and after the ABUSE forsaken me?

1608. FLETCHER, *Faithful Sheph.*, I. 230. Retire awhile Behind this Bush, till we have known that vile ABUSER of young Maidens.

1611. BIBLE, *Judges* xix. 25. And ABUSED her all the night until the morning. *Ibid.*, I. Cor. vi. 9. Nor adulterers nor ABUSERS of themselves with mankind.

1751. *Chambers' Cycl.*, s.v. **ABUSE**. Self-ABUSE is a phrase used by some late writers for the crime of self-pollution.

1767. FORDYCE, *Sermons to Young Women*, I. i. 9. He that ABUSES you dishonours his mother.

**ACADEMY**, *subs.* (old).—I. A gang of thieves; (2) a rendezvous for thieves, harlots, or gamblers; and (3) a prison. Hence **ACADEMICIAN** = (1) a thief; and (2) a harlot. Also **BUZZING-ACADEMY** = a training school for pickpockets; **CANTING-ACADEMY** = (1) a common lodging-house, a DOSSING-KEN (*q.v.*), or house of call for beggars, and (2) a likely house for WORKING (*q.v.*); **FLOATING-ACADEMY** = the hulks; **CHARACTER-ACADEMY** = a resort of servants without characters, which are there concocted; and **GAMMONING-ACADEMY** = a reformatory (B. E., GROSE, BEE, MATSELL).

1668. LESTRANGE, *Quevedo* (1678), 143. Gaming Ordinaries are called ACADEMIES.

**ACCIDENT**, *subs.* (conventional).—I. Seduction; and (2) = a bastard: *see BY-BLOW*.

**ACCOMMODATE**, *verb.* (old colloquial: now recognised).—I. To equip; to supply; to provide. [JONSON, *Discoveries*: one of 'the perfumed terms of the time.' HALLIWELL: the indefinite use is well ridiculed by Bardolph's vain attempt to define it (*see quot. 1597*): *cf.* (modern) TO ACCOMMODATE with a loan, or with cash for a cheque.]

1597. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Hen. IV.*, iii. 2. 77. *Shal ACCOMMODAT*! it comes of 'accustomed': very good: a good phrase. *Bard.* Pardon me, sir: I have heard the word . . . ACCOMMODATED; that is, when a man is, as they say, ACCOMMODATED; or when a man is, being, whereby a' may be thought to be ACCOMMODATED; which is an excellent thing.

1598. JONSON, *Every Man*, i. 4. Hostess, ACCOMMODATE us with another bed-staff here quickly. Lend us another bed-staff—the woman does not understand the words of action. *Ibid.* (1601), *Poetaster*, iii. 1. Here's all I have, Captain, some five and twenty; pray, sir, will you present and ACCOMMODATE it unto the gentleman?

1627. *Lisander and Calister*, 43. To goe unto Paris to ACCOMMODATE him there of such things as were most necessary.

1672. JORDAN, *Lond. Triumph*, [HEATH, *Grocers' Comp.* (1860), 489.] Three score and six poor men, pensioners, ACCOMMODATED with Gowns and Caps.

1725. DEFOE, *Voy. Round World* (1840), 269. We had wax candles brought to ACCOMMODATE us with light.

1794. WILLIAMS, *Hist. Vermont*, 94. His hind feet are ACCOMMODATED with webs.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Archaic Words*, etc., s.v. ACCOMMODATE. A very fashionable word in Shakspeare's time, ridiculed both by him and Ben Jonson.

2. (old).—*See quot.*

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. ACCOMMODATE or ACCOMMODATION. In the Sporting World it is to part a bet, or to let a person go halves (that is to ACCOMMODATE him) in a bet that is likely to come off successful. It is also, in an ironical manner, to *believe* a person when you are well assured he is uttering a lie; by observing you *believe* what he is saying, merely to ACCOMMODATE him.

3. (venery).—To SERVE (*q.v.*) a woman: *see GREENS* and *RIDE*. Also LADY OF ACCOMMODATING MORALS = a prostitute: *see TART*; ACCOMMODATION HOUSE = a BED-HOUSE (*q.v.*).

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. AUNT . . . an ACCOMMODATION-HOUSE, where half-modest women resort, as to relative or aunt's. *Ibid.* TUBBS (Mrs.)—any lady who's home is an ACCOMMODATION to persons whose desire of seclusion is temporary.

**ACCOMPANY**, *verb.* (euphemistic).—To cohabit: *see GREENS* and *RIDE*.

c. 1500. *Remedie of Love* [CHALMERS, i. 542]. If she be not ACCOMPANIDE, How ACCOMPANIED, not with yong men, But with maidens, I meane or women.

1634. SIR T. HERBERT, *Travels*, 374. The phasma . . . ACCOMPANIES her, at least as she imagines.

1660. COKE, *Power and Subj.*, 161. We teach, that upon Festival and Fasting times every man forbear to ACCOMPANY his wife.

1670. MILTON, *Hist. Eng.*, v. [He] loved her and ACCOMPANIED with her only, till he married Elfrida.

**ACCOUNT.** TO CAST UP ACCOUNTS (ONE'S GORGE, or RECKONING), *verb.* *phr.* (Old Cant).—I. To vomit; TO CAT (or SHOOT THE CAT) (*q.v.*): *orig.* TO CAST, thence by punning extension (RAY, GROSE). Also (nautical) TO AUDIT ONE'S ACCOUNTS AT THE COURT OF NEPTUNE.

1484. CAXTON, *Curial*, 6. We ete so gredily . . . that otherwhyle we CASTE IT UP AGAYN.

1594. LIVY, *Mother Bombie*, ii. 1. I carouse to Prisius . . . wee shall CAST UP OUR ACCOUNTS, and discharge our stomackes, like men that can digest anything.

1597. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Hen. IV.*, i. 3. 96. Thou beastly feeder, art so full of him That thou provokst thyself to CAST him UP?

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, v. 1. I would not have 'em CAST UP THEIR ACCOUNTS here, for more than they mean to be drunk this twelvemonth.

1629. EARLE, *Micro.*, 56. 'A Meere Empie Wit' [ARBER], 80. A nauseating stomacke . . . where there is nothing to CAST UP.

1633. ROGERS, *Treat. Sacr.*, i. 12. Searches himselfe and CASTS UP HIS GORGE.

1674. HOGAN-MOGANIDES, 49. She, whilst in Womb the Hogan mounts, Began to CAST UP her ACCOUNTS . . . With gulps and gripes speweth her guts out.

1690. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xxii. Poor Panufe fairly CAST UP HIS ACCOUNTS, and gave up his halfpenny.

1808. R. ANDERSON, *Cumb. Ball.*, 26. The breyde she KEST UP HER ACCOUNTS In Rachel's lap.

2. (thieves').—To turn Queen's evidence.

TO GO ON THE ACCOUNT, *verb. phr.* (old nautical).—To join a filibustering or buccaneering expedition ; to turn pirate. [OGILVIE : 'probably from the parties sharing, as in a commercial venture.]

1812. SCOTT, *Letter to a Friend*. I hope it is no new thing for gentlemen of fortune who are GOING ON THE ACCOUNT to change a captain now and then.

TO ACCOUNT FOR (sporting).—To kill ; literally to be answerable for bringing down one's share of the shooting : to make away with.

1846-48. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, xx. The persecuted animals [rats] bolted above ground : the terrier ACCOUNTED FOR one, the keeper for another.

1858. *Times*, 19 Nov., 'Letter from Lahore.' In the course of one week they were hunted up and ACCOUNTED FOR ; and you know that in Punjab phraseology ACCOUNTING FOR means the extreme fate due to mutineers.

TO GIVE A GOOD ACCOUNT OF, *verb. phr.* (sporting). To be successful ; to do one's duty by : e.g. 'The stable GAVE A GOOD ACCOUNT of their trainer.'

1684. SCANDERBEG *Redivivus*, iv. 81. Offering that with an Army of 60,000 . . . he did not doubt but to GIVE A GOOD ACCOUNT OF this Summers Campaign.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 92. I will GIVE you A GOOD ACCOUNT OF her . . . I long to have a grapple with a beauty.

ACCOUPLE, *verb.* (venery).—To copulate : see GREENS and RIDE. Hence ACCOUPLEMENT=cohabitation.

1483. CAXTON, *Gold Leg.*, 347. 4. This excellency that virgynete had as to the respect of THACCOUPLEMENT of mariage appiereth by manyfold comparacion.

1525. MORE, *Rich. III.* [Works (1557), 63. 2]. Lawfull ACCOUPING & . . . other things, which the doctor . . . rather signified than fully explained.

1576. LAMBARDE, *Peram.*, 'Kent' (1826), 339. The lawe of God maketh the ACCOUPLEMENT honorable amongst all men.

1594. R. CAREW, *Men's Wits* (1616), 318. If the father . . . take to wife a woman cold and moist in the third degree, the sonne borne of such an ACCOUPLEMENT, shalbe most vntoward.

1613. FINCH, *Law* (1636), 369. They were never ACCOUPLED in lawfull matrimonie.

ACCOUTREMENT, *subs.* (Old Cant. —B. E.).—In *pl.* = 'fine rigging (now) for Men or Women, (formerly) only Trappings for Horses. *Well accoutred*, c. gentilly dress'd.' [A recognised usage from the middle of the 16th century.]

ACCUMULATIVE, *subs.* (American).—A sort of journalistic sparring match ; a CODICIL (*q.v.*).

ACCUMULATOR, *subs.* (racing).—A backer, successful with one horse, carrying forward the stakes to another event.

ACCUSTOM, *verb.* (euphemistic).—To cohabit : see RIDE.

1670. MILTON, *Hist. Eng.*, iii. Much better do we Britons fulfil the work of nature than you Romans; we, with the best men, ACCUSTOM openly; you, with the basest, commit private adultery.

**Ace**, *subs.* (old).—1. The smallest standard of value: also AMBS-ACE: *see* RAP, STRAW, etc. Hence TO BATE AN ACE=to make a slight reduction: also 'BATE ME AN ACE, quoth Bolton' =a derisive retort; WITHIN AN ACE (or AMB'S-ACE)=nearly, within a shade; *see* AMES ACE.

1598. MORE, *Heresies* [Works (1557), 170. 2]. I will not muche sticke with you for one ACE better.

1570. EDWARDS, *Damon and Pithias* [DODDSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), iv. 77]. Nay, there BATE AN ACE (quod Bolton); I can wear a horn and blow it not.

1579. TOMSON, *Calvin's Serm.*, Tim. 13. 2. Such as did their best to be an ACE above Timothie.

1587. GASCOIGNE, *Steele Glas*. [CHALMERS, *Eng. Poet.*, ii. 559. 2]. Better loke of, than loke an ACE to farre.

1592. SHAKSPEARE, *Mid. Night's Dream*, v. 1. 314. Less than an ACE man; for he is dead: he is nothing.

c. 1600. CAMDEN, *Remains*, 'Proverbs [SMITH (1870), 319]. BATE ME AN ACE of that, quoth BOLTON.'

1615. H. P[ARROT]. *Mastive*. A pamphlet was of proverbs penn'd by Polton, Wherein he thought all sorts included were: Until one told him BATE M'AN ACE, quoth BOLTON: Indeed (said he) that proverb is not there.

1616. HAUGHTON, *Engl. for my Money*, ii. 2. Yet a man may want of his will, and BATE AN ACE of his wish.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, Dem. (1893), 25. I may be peradventure an ACE before thee.

1633. JONSON, *Tale of a Tub*, ii. 1. Go to, I will not BATE him AN ACE on't.

1676. MARVELL, *Mr. Smirke* (1875), iv. 60. The exposer has not BATED him AN ACE.

1679. *Trial of Langhorn*, 18. His Wife was but AUMES ACE turned from a devil.

1698. VANBRUGH, *Aesop*, v. 1. [ROUTLEDGE, 383]. Reduced within AMBS-ACE of hanging or drowning.

d. 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 184. I was within an ACE of being talked to death.

1733. NORTH, *Lives of Norths* (1826), III. 323. BATING him that ACE he was truly a great man. *Ibid.*, *Examen*, i. iii. 158. His Lordship was within AMB-ACE of being put in the plot.

1737. AGUER, *Naturalist*, 'Dragon of Wantley' (1858), 355. The Corporation worshipful He valued not an ACE.

1800. EDGEWORTH, *Castle Rackrent*, 28. Within AMES-ACE of getting quit . . . of all his enemies.

1824. IRVING, *Tales of Travel*, II. 43. I came within an ACE of making my fortune.

1880. *Manchester Guard*, 30 Oct. Within an ACE of being carried into execution.

2. (venery). — The female *pudendum*: also ACE OF SPADES (*q.v.*): *see* MONOSYLLABLE. Hence TO PLAY ONE'S ACE AND TAKE THE JACK (*q.v.*)=to receive a man: *see* GREENS.

*See* AMES-ACE.

**ACE OF SPADES**, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. A widow (GROSE, MATSELL).

2. (common).—A black-haired woman.

3. *See* ACE, sense 2.

**ACK**, *intj.* (Christ's Hospital).—No! refusal of a request, *e.g.*, 'Lend me your book.' 'ACK!'

**ACKMAN** (ACKPIRATE or ACK-RUFF), *subs.* (old).—A freshwater thief or pirate (GROSE and CLARK RUSSELL). [*Cf.* dialectic ACKER=flood-tide, a bore, and ARK.]

**ACKNOWLEDGE.** **TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CORN**, *verb. phr.* (American). — To confess; to make an admission: as to a charge, failure, etc.

1846. *New York Herald*, 27 June. The Evening Mirror very naively comes out and **ACKNOWLEDGES THE CORN**.

1848. *Pickings from the Picayune*, 80. Enough, said the Captain. I'm . . . gloriously hoaxed. I **ACKNOWLEDGE THE CORN**.

1860. **HALIBURTON (SAM SLICK)**, *The Season Ticket*, No. 9. 'He had a beard that wouldn't **ACKNOWLEDGE THE CORN** to no man's.'

1865. **BACON**, *Handbook of America*, 361. **ACKNOWLEDGE THE CORN**, to confess a charge or imputation.

1871. **DE VERE**, *Americanisms*, 47. In 1828 . . . Congress discussing the principle of Protection . . . Mr. Wickliffe jumped up and said: 'Mr. Speaker, I **ACKNOWLEDGE THE CORN**.'

1883. **SALA**, *Living London*, 97. Mr. Porter **ACKNOWLEDGES THE CORN** as regards his fourteen days' imprisonment, and is forgiven by his loving consort.

**ACOCK-HORSE** (or **ACOCK**), *adv.* (colloquial). — *See* quot. 1847; also (2) defiantly.

1611. **COTGRAVE**, *Dict.*, s.v. *Il est à Cheval*, hee is set on COCK-HORSE; hee is all a hiocht, hee now begins to flaunt it.

1658. **T. WALL**, *God's Rev. Enem. Ch.*, 41. There is no tyranny like to that of a slave, whom vilany hath set a COCK-HORSE.

1683. **E. HOOKER** [PORDAGE, *Myst. Div.*, 22, Pref.], Welch that rideth up A-COCK-HORS (pass by the term) while Worth holdeth but the stirrup.

1829. **THOMPSON**, *Exer.* (1842), 1. 10. The outbreak of an oppressed party, and setting it A-COCK-HORSE on the oppressing one.

1846. **JERROLD**, *Chron. Clovers [Works]* (1864), iv. 379. A man who, on his outstart in life, sets his hat ACOCK—a man who defies Hymen and all his wicked wiles.

1847. **HALLIWELL**, *Arch. Words*, s.v. A-COCK-HORSE. Triumphant . . . A somewhat slang expression, not quite obsolete.

**ACORN.** **HORSE FOAL OF AN ACORN**, *subs. phr.* (Old Cant). — The gallows: *see LADDER* and *NUBBING-CHEAT (GROSE)*.

1694. **MOTTEUX**, *Rabelais*, v. xxviii. May I ride on a HORSE that was FOALED OF AN ACORN, if this be not as honest a cod as ever the ground went upon.

1760-61. **SMOLLETT**, *Sir L. Greaves*, viii. I believe as how 'tis . . . a devil incarnate . . . I'd like to have rid a HORSE THAT WAS FOALED OF AN ACORN (i.e., he had nearly met with the fate of Absalom).

1827. **LUTTON**, *Pelham*, lxxii. The cove . . . is as pretty a Tyburn blossom as ever was brought up to ride a HORSE FOALED BY AN ACORN.

1839. **AINSWORTH**, *Jack Sheppard* (1889), 8. . . As to this little fellow . . . he shall never mount a HORSE FOALED BY AN ACORN, if I can help it.

**ACQUISITIVE**, *subs.* (nonce?). — Plunder; booty; pickings.

18[?]. **LEMAN REDE**, *Man in Possession* [Sunday Times]. The officers surprised them packing up the ACQUISITIVE.

**ACREOCRACY**, *subs.* (common). — The landed interest: *cf.* SNOBOCRACY, SQUATTOCRACY, MOBOCRACY, COTTONOCRACY, SLAVOCRACY, etc.

1878. *Haiburger's Illustrated Magazine*, 622. A plutocracy among the aristocracy and the ACREOCRACY.

**ACRES**, *subs.* (theatrical). — A coward: *see* quot.

1775. **SHERIDAN**, *Rivals*, v. 13. ACRES . . . My valour is certainly going! —it is sneaking off! —I feel it oozing out as it were at the palms of my hands.

**ACROBAT**, *subs.* (music-hall). — A glass [i.e. 'tumbler'].

**ACROSS.** **ACROSS LOTS**, *adv. phr.* (American). — I. By the shortest way; (2) = completely.

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*. Joe looked roun' And see (ACROST LOTS in a pond) . . . A goose that on the water sot Ez of awaitin' to be shot.

1854. NEAL, *Charcoal Sketches*, i. 35 [to a grumbler]:—'You would cut ACROSS THE LOT, like a streak of lightning, if you had a chance.'

1857. BRIGHAM YOUNG, *Speech* [BARTLETT]. I swore in Nauvoo, when my enemies were looking me in the face, that I would send them to hell ACROSS LOTS if they meddled with me.

1887. *Scribner's Magazine*. 'I didn't see Crosby go by.' 'He'd have had to foot it by the path CROSS-LOTS,' replied Ezra, gravely.

1902. LYNCH, *High Stakes*, xxxii. A person leaving . . . by this footway 'ACROSS LOTS,' so to speak, can only reach the other street by going through Madame C.'s house.

**ACTEON**, *subs. (old)*.—A cuckold. As *verb*=to cuckold, whence ACTEON'S BADGE=the stigma of cuckoldom (B. E., GROSE and BEE).

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, ii. i. 122. *Pist*. Like Sir ACTEON he . . . O, odious is the name! *Ford*. What name, sir? *Pist*. The horn.

1615. NICHOLS, *Disc. Marr.* [HARL. MISC., III. 274]. There is, in marriage, an inevitable destiny . . . which is either to be ACTEONED, or not to be.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, III. iii. iv. i. Husband and Cuckold in that age, it seems, were reciprocal terms; the Emperors themselves did wear ACTEON'S BADGE.

1633. MARMION, *Fine Companion*, v. 2. I turn'd him into an ACTEON at home, set a fair pair of horns on his head, and made him a tame beast.

c. 1658. CLEVELAND, *Vit. Uxorii*, x. And thou'l ACTEON'D be.

1664. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xxxvii. I already see him, like another ACTEON, horned, horny, hornified.

1699. FARQUHAR, *Constant Couple*, i. 1. *Smug*. We'll maintain you no longer. *Stand*. Then your wives shall, old ACTEON.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. ACTEON . . . There sits my ACTEON, ignorant and hornified.

**ACTING DICKY**, *subs. phr. (nautical)*.

—1. A temporary appointment which may, or may not, be confirmed by the Admiralty; an 'acting-order.'

2. (legal).—A man acting in the name of an enrolled solicitor.

**ACTIVE CITIZEN**, *subs. (common)*.—A louse: see CHATES (GROSE and BEE).

**ACT (THE)**, *subs. (conventional)*.—Copulation: see GREENS and RIDE. Also THE ACT (or DEED) OF DARKNESS, KIND, LOVE, etc.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *Merchant of Venice*, i. 3. 84. When the work of generation was Between these woolly breeders in THE ACT. *Ibid.* (1605), *Lear*, iii. 4. 87. A serving maid . . . that . . . served the lust of my mistress's heart, and did the ACT OF DARKNESS with her. *Ibid.* (1600), *Pericles*, iv. 6. *Bawd*. If she would . . . *Lys*. If she'd do the DEED OF DARKNESS, thou wouldest say.

1611. BIBLE, John viii. 4. This woman was taken in adultery, in THE very ACT.

d. 1638. CAREW, *Poems*, 'Rapture.' And knows as well as Lais how to move her pliant body in THE ACT OF LOVE.

**ACT OF PARLIAMENT**, *subs. (old)*.—Small beer, five pints of which, by an Act of Parliament, a landlord was formerly obliged to give gratis to each soldier billeted upon him.

**ACTUAL**, *subs. (common)*.—Money; generic: see RHINO. Also THE ACTUAL.

1856. DOW, *Sermons*. As for happiness in this world without the rhino, the chink, or THE ACTUAL, you might as soon think of winning a woman's affections in a raffle.

**AD (or ADVER)**, *subs. (printers')*.—An 'advertisement.'

1854. DICKENS, *Household Words*, xiii. 9. The really interesting ADS are in the body of the paper.

1874. *Sitcad*, 200. 'ADS' as numerous as ocean sands.

1888. *New York Times*, 6 Ap. [The country editor's wife—] . . . reads the ADS with the editor, Just to find what each has paid.

1901. *Free Lance*, 27 Ap. 79. 1. Some big Sheffield firm ought to be able to make a roaring AD out of this.

**ADAM**, *subs. (old)*.—1. See *quot.* : apparently a punning nonce-word. [Sergeants wore BUFF (*q.v.*) livery.]

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Comedy of Errors*, iv. 3. Not that Adam that kept the Paradise, but that ADAM that keeps the prison.

2. See **ADAM TILER**.

3. (common).—A master man ; a foreman.

See **ADAM'S ALE**.

**THE OLD ADAM**, *subs. phr. (venery)*.—The *penis* : see **PRICK**. Hence **ADAM'S-ARSENAL**=*penis* and *testes* ; **ADAM'S OWN**=the female *puerulum* : see **MONOSYLLABLE** ; TO PLAY AT **ADAM AND EVE** (TO DANCE **ADAM'S JIG**, TO **ADAMISE**, OR TO **ADAM AND EVE IT**)=to copulate : see **GREENS** and **RIDE** ; **ADAMED**=married.

c. 1700. **WARD**, *Merry Observations*. Jan. Much Drinking, Kissing . . . and Merriment till Twelve at Night ; and great dancing of Father **ADAM'S JIGG**, both in London and the Country all Night after.

1781. **PARKER**, *Variegated Characters*. 'What, are Moll and you **ADAMED**?'

**ADAM'S-ALE** (-**WINE**, or **ADAM**), *subs. phr. (old)*.—Water (B. E. and **GROSE**).

**ENGLISH SYNONYMS.** *Aqua pura* ; *aqua pompaginis* ; *fish broth* ; *pure element*.

**FRENCH SYNONYMS.** *Agout* ; *anisette de barbillon* ; *bouillon de canard* ; *essence de parapluie* ; *lance* ; *limonade* ; *sirop* (or *ratafia*) *de grenouilles* (*de l'aiguierre* or *de baromètre*).

**GERMAN SYNONYM.** *Gänsewein*.

1643. **PRYNNE**, *Sov. Power of Parl.* II. 32. They have been . . . allowed only a poore pittance of **ADAM'S ALE**, and scarce a penny bread a day.

1685. **BROWN**, *Works*, iv. 11. Your claret's too hot. Sirrah, drawer, go bring A cup of cold **ADAM** from the next purling spring.

1694. **MOTTEUX**, *Rabelais*, v. xlii. Good, harmless, sober **ADAM'S LIQUOR**, . . . in a word mere element.

1706. **WARD**, *Wooden World*, 72. There's no bringing him to his true Temperament again but by . . . the Bilboes, with a Week's Dieting upon **ADAM'S ALE** and dry Bisket.

c. 1712. **PRIOR**, *Wandering Pilgrim*. A Rechabite poor Will must live, And drink of **ADAM'S ALE**.

c. 1786-9. **WOLCOT** [P. Pindar], *Louisiad*, ii. 453. Old **ADAM'S BEVERAGE** flows with pride.

1838. **BECKET**, *Paradise Lost*, 54. On which, and sloes, they'd oft regale, And wash 'em down with **ADAM'S ALE**.

c. 1845. **HOOD**, *Drinking Song*, iv. Will drink **ADAM'S ALE**, and we'll get it pool measure.

1864. **BIOT** [DAVIES, *Supp. Gloss.*, s.v. **ADAM'S ALE**]. Prof. De Morgan mentioned this as illustrating China ale or beer as applied to tea. The expression was quite new to M. Biot and other Frenchmen. He wrote back, 'L'**ADAM'S ALE** qui charme tous ceux de nos philologues à qui je le raconte.'

1869. **BLACKMORE**, *Lorna Doone*, lxxv. Even at the door of death he could not drink **WHAT ADAM DRANK**, so I gave him a little more *eau-de-vie*.

1884. *Daily Telegraph*, 1 April, 5.  
2. The spectral banquet graced by  
ADAM'S ALE, or sick-room toast and  
water.

1886. JOHN COLEMAN, *Elfie*, 1. ii.  
For my part, I stuck to ADAM'S ALE,  
which Elfie brought from the spring.

**ADAM'S-APPLE**, *subs. phr.* (old  
colloquial).—See *quots.* Also  
ADAM'S-MORSEL.

1586. BEARD, *La Primandaye's Fr.  
Acad.* (1594), II. 94. The knot or joynte  
of the necke, or ADAM'S MORSEL.

1755. JOHNSON, *Dict.*, s.v. ADAM'S  
APPLE, a prominent part of the throat.

1847. CRAIG, *Dict.*, s.v. ADAM'S-  
APPLE, so called from a superstitious  
notion that a piece of the forbidden fruit  
stuck in Adam's throat and occasioned  
this prominence.

1865. *D. Tcleg.*, 20 July. Having  
the noose adjusted and secured by tightening  
ing above his ADAM'S APPLE.

1872. HUXLEY, *Physiol.*, VII. 178.  
The thyroid cartilage . . . constitutes  
what is commonly known as ADAM'S  
APPLE.

**ADAM'S-ARMS**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A spade; *cf.* old saw :  
'When Adam delved and Eve  
span, Who was then the gentle-  
man?' Hence ADAM'S PROFE-  
SION=spade work (*i.e.*, garden-  
ing).

1602. *Hamlet*, v. 1. There is no  
ancient gentlemen but gardeners, ditchers,  
and grave-makers: They hold up ADAM'S  
PROFESSION. He was the first that ever  
bore ARMS.

**ADAM TILER** (or ADAM), *subs. phr.*  
('thieves').—See *quots.* (B. E. and  
GROSE).

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew.*  
ADAM-TILER, c. a Pickpocket's Camerade,  
who receives Stolen Money or Goods,  
and scours off with them.

1848. *Sinks of London Laid Open*,  
96. ADAM, a henchman, an accomplice.

**ADD.** To ADD TO THE LIST  
(racing).—To geld; 'to add to  
the list of geldings in training.'

**ADDITION**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—  
See *quot.*

1704. CENTLIVRE, *Platonick Love*,  
iii. 1. *Milliner.* Be pleased to put on the  
ADDITION, madam . . . Peepoer. ADDI-  
TION is only paint, madam.

**ADDITION, DIVISION, AND  
SILENCE!** *phr.* (American).—A  
Philadelphia catch phrase:  
properly MULTIPLICATION, DIVI-  
SION, AND SILENCE! a reply  
given by William (Boss) Tweed  
when asked the proper qualifica-  
tion for a ring or trust.

1872. W. H. KEMBLE, *Letter*  
[WALSH, *Lit. Curios.*, 16]. He under-  
stands ADDITION, DIVISION AND SILENCE.  
[The *New York Sun* . . . interpreted the  
words as meaning the arts of the lobbyist  
joined to that kind of honour practised  
even by thieves.]

**ADDLE.** To ADDLE THE SHOON,  
*verb. phr.* (colloquial—North).—  
To roll on the back from side to  
side: of horses. [In the South a  
horse is then said to 'earn a  
gallon of oats.']

**ADDLE-EGG, ADDLE EGG AND IDLE  
HEAD**, *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).  
—Anything worthless; an  
abortion.

1589. *Pappe with an Hatchet* (1844),  
II. These Martins were hatchet of ADDLE  
EGGES, els could they not have such IDLE  
HEADS.

1606. SHAKSPEARE, *Troilus and  
Cress.*, i. 2. 145. *Pan.* He esteems her no  
more than I esteem an addle egg. *Cre.*  
If you love an ADDLE EGG as well as you  
love an IDLE HEAD, you would eat  
chickens in the shell.

1617. MINSHEW, *Dict.*, *Ductor.*  
An A'DLE EGGE q. IDLE EGGE, because it  
is good for nothing.

**ADDLE-BRAIN** (-COVE, -HEAD, or  
-PATE), *subs. phr.* (old).—A  
stupid bungler; a dullard; 'one  
full of Whimsies and Projects, and  
as empty of Wit' (B. E. : also  
GROSE). Hence as *adj.*, ADDLE-  
BRAINED, etc.

1580. *Lvly, Euphues* [ARBER].  
[OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 606]. Adjectives are applied in new senses . . . a broad jest, ADLE BRAINES].

1601. *Death Huntingdon* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), VIII. 279]. I and my mates Like ADDLE-FATES.

1630. *Taylor, Works*, II. 252. 2.  
Let every idle ADDLE-PATED gull, With stinking sweet Tobacco stufte his skull.

1641. *SMECTYMNUS, Vindic.*, etc.,  
16205. Call them if you will, Popish fooles and ADDLEHEADS.

1670. *HACKET, Williams*, II. 166.  
Coachman - preachers . . . barber-preachers, and such ADDLE-HEADED-companions.

1684. *MOTTEUX, Rabelais*, v. xlvi.  
Will the ADDLE-PATED wight have the grace to sheer off?

1705. *VANBRUGH, Confederacy*, v. 2.  
Oons! if you with your ADDLE-HEAD don't know your own jewels, I, with my solid one, do.

1830. *WARREN, Diary Physician*, v.  
I know it was every word composed by that abominable old ADDLEHEAD, . . . a doodle that he is.

1835. *THOMPSON, Exerc.*, III. 435.  
Calculate the ADDLE-HEADEDNESS of such invertebrate old women, as should go about recommending to try Juno for dry nurse.

1848. *DICKENS, Letters* (1880), I. 202.  
I was quite ADDLE-HEADED for the time being.

1849. *CRAIK, Oglivies*, xviii. It is quite too overpowering for such ADDLE-PATES as this gentleman and myself.

1866. *MOTTEY, Dutch Repub.*, IV. v.  
631. The ADDLE-BRAINED Oberstein had confessed . . . the enormous blunder which he had committed.

1880. *DISRAELI, Endymion*, I. viii.  
Never mind Lord Waverly and such ADDLEBRAINS.

**ADDLE-PLOT**, *subs. phr.* (common).  
—A marplot; a spoil-sport; 'a Martin-mar-all' (B. E. and GROSE).

**ADJECTIVE JERKER**, *subs. phr.* (literary).—A writer for the press; INK-SLINGER (*q.v.*).

1888. *Globe Democrat* [St. Louis], 29 April. A three-line letter, which she sent to an ADJECTIVE JERKER on a society weekly.

**ADJUTANT'S GIG**, *subs. phr.* (military).—The barrack roller: usually drawn by men under punishment.

**ADMIRAL**. **ADMIRAL OF THE BLUE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A tapster; from the colour of his apron (GROSE).

1731. R. HERRICK, *Poor Robin's Almanac*. As soon as customers begin to stir, THE ADMIRAL OF THE BLUE, cries, 'Coming, sir!'

**ADMIRAL OF THE NARROW SEAS**, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—A man vomiting into the lap of his neighbour or *vis-à-vis* (GROSE).

**ADMIRAL OF THE RED**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A sot: see LUSHINGTON.

**ADMIRAL OF THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A beadle; a hall-porter; and similar functionaries when sporting the livery of office.

**ADMIRAL OF THE WHITE**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—A white-faced person; a coward; a woman in a faint.

**YELLOW ADMIRAL**, *subs. phr.* (naval).—A rear-admiral retired without service afloat after promotion. [ADMIRALS OF THE RED, THE WHITE, or THE BLUE were grades in naval rank prior to 1864, according to the colour of the ensign displayed: all admirals now fly the white ensign, and they rank as Admiral of the Fleet, Admiral, Vice-Admiral, and Rear-Admiral.]

**TO TAP THE ADMIRAL**, *verb.*  
**phr.** (nautical).—I. To SUCK THE MONKEY: see quots. Germ. *Den Affen saugen*. Also (2) to drink on the sly.

1834. MARRYATT, *Peter Simple*, xxx. Mr. Simple, . . . I'll let you into a secret. Do you know what SUCKING THE MONKEY means? No! . . . Well . . . it is a term used among seamen for drinking rum out of cocoanuts, the milk having been poured out, and the liquor substituted. Now do you comprehend why your men are tipsy?

1837. BARTHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*. 'The Black Mosquetaire. What the vulgar call SUCKING THE MONKEY, Has much less effect on a man when he's funky.'

1864. HOTTEN, *Slang Dict.*, s.v. ADMIRAL (TO TAP THE). To suck liquor from a cask by a straw . . . it was first done with the rum-cask in which the body of Admiral Lord Nelson was brought to England, and when the cask arrived the admiral was found 'high and dry.'

1883. CLARK RUSSELL, *Sailors' Language*, s.v. TAP THE ADMIRAL. Said of a man who would drink anything.

**ADMIRAL'S REGIMENT (THE)**, *subs.* **phr.** (military).—The Royal Marines; also nicknamed 'The Little Grenadiers,' 'The Jollies,' and 'The Globe Rangers.'

**ADONIS**, *subs. (old)*.—I. A dandy; an exquisite. Hence TO ADONIZE = to dandify; to 'dress to kill': of men only.

[1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Adoniser*, TO ADONISE it; to resemble Adonis, to imitate or counterfeit the graces, or beautie of Adonis.]

1623. MABBE, *Spanish Rogue*, ii. 21. [A man becomes] an ADONIS.

1668. LESTRANGE, *Quevedo* (1678), iii. 418. Whatever you may think of a Devil, he passes . . . for a very ADONIS or Narcissus.

1761. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (1802), iii. 418. Three good hours, at least, in adjusting and ADONISING myself.

1765. TUCKER, *Light of Nature*, i. 457. Two such ADONISES talking so sweetly of our reciprocal passion!

1818. S. E. FERRIER, *Marriage*, ix. Venus and the Graces, by Jove! . . . now I must go and ADONISE a little myself.

1850. SMEDELY, *Frank Fairleigh*, xl. He positively refused to face the ladies till he had changed . . . so I left him up at the hall to ADONIZE.

1865. *Pall Mall Gas.*, ii Aug., 9. 2. They may be ADONIZING at Truefit's.

2. (obsolete).—A wig.

1760. WALPOLE, *Letters*, ii. 26. He [Duke of Cumberland] had a dark brown ADONIS, and a cloak of black cloth.

1772. GRAVES, *Spiritual Quixote*, iii. xix. A fine flowing ADONIS or white periwig.

**ADRIFT**, *adv.* (B. E. and GROSE: now accepted).—'Loose—I'll turn ye ADRIFT, a Tar phrase; I'll prevent ye doing me any harm' (B. E., c. 1690); also (GROSE) 'ADRIFT, discharged.' Hence = astray, puzzled, distracted.

1690. LOCKE, *Human Underst.*, ii. vii. 3. And so we should . . . let our Thoughts run ADRIFT without any Direction or Design [The earliest quot. in O. E. D. for the figurative sense: the sea-phrase dates from 1624].

**ADSUM**, *subs. (old: spec. Charterhouse)*.—A response in answer to a summons or names-calling.

1821. SCOTT, *Pirate*, v. Advancing to the door, he exclaimed, 'Heus tibi Dave!' 'ADSUM,' answered the youth.

1855. HACKERAY, *Newcomes*, 774. A sweet smile shone over his face, and he lifted up his head a little and quickly said ADSUM, and fell back; . . . lo, he whose heart was as that of a little child had answered to his name, and stood in the presence of the Master.

1900. D. *Telegr.*, 23 March, 8. 7. As in the old days of Colonel Newcome, 'ADSUM,' or 'Always ready,' is still the watchword of the Charterhouse.

1900. TOD, *Charterhouse*, p. 97. ADSUM is the name of a new institution. . . . There was no occasion for it when the school was in London, and none could pass beyond the school precincts. Colonel Newcome must have answered ADSUM at prayers only.

**ADULLAMITES**, *subs.* (parliamentary).—1. A nickname for seceding Liberals who in 1866 voted Tory because dissatisfied with a Liberal measure for the extension of the Franchise. [See 1 Sam. xxii. 1.] The political party in question were also known collectively as 'The Cave.' Hence (2) see quot. 1870; and **ADULLAMY** = ratting.

1866. BRIGHT, *Speeches* (1876), 349. The right honourable gentleman . . . is the first of the new party who has retired into what may be called his political **CAVE OF ADULLAM**.

1870. *Notes & Queries*, 5 March, 241. The . . . 'CAVE OF ADULLAM' has become an adopted byword for a small clique who . . . obstruct the party with which they usually associate.

1878-80. M'CARTHY, *Hist. of Our Own Times*, 142. The little third party were at once christened the **ADULLAMITES**, and the name still survives and is likely long to survive its old political history.

1884. *New York Times*, 19 July. The Conservative party . . . received besides a large reinforcement of **ADULLAMITES** from the Liberal side.

**ADVANTAGE**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. A thirteenth: added to a dozen of anything; (2) something in addition: also **VANTAGE**. See **BAKER'S DOZEN** and **LAGNIAPIE**.

c. 1641. MILTON, *Reform.* [Works, i. 1847], 10. If the Scripture be for reformation, and Antiquity to boot, it is but an **ADVANTAGE** to the dozen, it is no winning cast.

1648-55. FULLER, *Ch. History*, III. ix. 27. When his Holiness created twelve Cardinals at the request of the King of France, he denied to make one at the desire of this King of England. Surely . . . his Holiness giving the whole dozen to the King of France might allow the **ADVANTAGE** to the King of England.

1692. HACKET, *Williams*, ii. 91. Three dozen of articles (yet none to the **VANTAGE**).

**TO PLAY UPON ADVANTAGE**, *verb. phr.* (old).—To cheat.

1592. WARNER, *Albion's England*, vii. xxxvi. Howbeit, on ADVANTAGE PLAI' Gynetta all this while.

1668. SEDLEV, *Mulberry Garden*, ii. 2. Your only way is to turn rook and PLAY UPON ADVANTAGE.

**ÆGROTAT** (or **ÆGER**), *subs.* (University).—1. An excuse for absence on account of sickness; (2) a medical or other certificate of indisposition (GROSE). [**ÆGRITUDE** (old)=sickness; an **ÆGROTANT**=an invalid.] Hence **READING-ÆGROTAT**=leave taken to read for a degree; **ÆGER-ROOM** (Felsted School)=the sick room. [Lat. = 'he is sick.']—*Gradus ad Cantab.*, 1803.

1532. HENRY VIII. [BURNET, *Hist. Ref.*, ii. 168]. We have augmented our **ÆGRITUDE** and distress.

1610. HEALEY, *City of God* (1620), 478. That sorrow which Tully had rather call **ÆGRITUDE**, and Virgil dolor.

1647. -BARON, *Cyprian Academy*, 34. We symbolize in **ÆGRITUDE** And sympathize in Cupid's malady.

1794. *Gent. Mag.*, 1085. They [at Cambridge] sported an **ÆGROTAT**, and they sported a new coat!

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*. A deep-laid scheme of yours to post a heap of **ÆGERS** while you're a Freshman, . . . get better and better every term, and make the Dons think that you are improving the shining hours by doing chapels and lectures more regularly, artful Giglamps!

1864. BABBAGE, *Life of a Philosopher*, 37. I sent my servant to the apothecary for a thing called an **ÆGROTAT**, which I understood . . . meant a certificate that I was indisposed.

1865. *Cornhill Mag.*, Feb., 227. A very common method of escaping the tedium of this duty . . . is 'to send in an **ÆGER**'; in other words to improvise an attack of illness.

1865. *Temple Bar*, Sept., 262. There is a large class of **ÆGROTANTS** in this country.

1870. *Chambers's Journal*, 18 June, 395. I'll get the receipt from him. I often want a good thing for an **ÆGER**.

1888. H. SMART, in *Temple Bar*, Feb. 213. Instead of applying for leave to my tutor, I had resorted to the old device of pricking ~~AGER~~.

1890. *Felstedian*, Feb. 2. What's up with Smith? . . . He's not the fellow to go ~~AGER~~ for nothing. I do hate that ~~AGER~~-ROOM.

**AFFAIR**, *subs.* (venery).—1. The *penis* : see PRICK ; (2) the female *pudendum* ; see MONOSYLLABLE.

**AFFIDAVIT-MAN**, *subs. phr.* (old).—See quotes. and STRAW.

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. **AFFIDAVIT MEN**, Knights of the Post, Mercenary Sweaters for Hire, Inhabitants (formerly) of White Friers, now dispersed.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. **AFFIDAVIT-MEN**. Knights of the post, or false witnesses, said to attend Westminster Hall, and other courts of justice, ready to swear anything for hire.

**AFFLICKE**, *subs.* (old).—See quot.

1610. ROWLAND'S *Martin Mark-all*, 38 [H. Club's Repr., 1874]. **AFFLICKE**, a theefe.

**AFFLICTED**, *adj.* (common).—Drunk : see SCREWED (RAY).

**AFFLICTIONS**, *subs.* (drapers').—Mourning goods : e.g., **AFFLICTIONS** are quiet=there is little demand for mourning. MITIGATED **AFFLICTIONS** = half mourning.

**AFFYGRAPHY**. TO AN **AFFYGRAPHY**, *phr.* (common).—To a nicety ; to a T. IN AN **AFFYGRAPHY**=in a moment ; directly.

**AFLOAT**, *adj.* (common).—Drunk : see SCREWED : also WITH BACK-TEETH WELL AFLOAT.

1888. *Missouri Republican*, 25 Jan. His honor once more drank until, as an onlooker put it, his BACK TEETH WERE WELL AFLOAT.

**AFRAID**. Among colloquial and proverbial sayings are : 'He that's AFRAID of grass must not piss in a meadow' (Ital., *Chi ha paura d'ogni urtica non pisca in herba*= 'He that's afraid of every nettle must not piss in the grass') ; 'He that's AFRAID of leaves must not come in a wood (French, *Qui a peur des feuilles ne doit pas aller aux bois*) ; Ital., 'Non entri tra rocca e fuso chi non vuol esser filato') ; 'He that's AFRAID of the wagging of feathers must keep from among wild fowl' ; 'He that's AFRAID of wounds must not come near a battle ; 'He's never likely to have a good thing cheap that's AFRAID to ask the price' ; 'AFRAID of far enough' (=fearful of what is not likely to happen) ; 'AFRAID of him that died last year' (=fearful of a shadow) ; 'AFRAID of the hatchet lest the helve stick in his arse' ; 'AFRAID of his shadow' ; 'More AFRAID than hurt.'

**AFTER**. A LONG WAY AFTER, *phr.* (artists' and journalists').—Said of a sketch, cartoon, or burlesque of a classic picture, book, etc.

**AFTER-CLAP**, *subs. phr.* (old : now chiefly American).—(1) Anything unexpected (spec. disagreeable), after the conclusion of a matter. Hence, 2 (modern) a demand made over and above a stipulated price, or for an amount already paid (GROSE).

[?]. *MS. Lansd.*, 762, f. 100. To thy frende thowe louest moste, Loke thowe telle not alle thy worste, Whatesoever behappes ; . . . Beware of **AFTER-CLAPES** !

[?]. *MS. Douce*, 236, f. 14. So that hit was a sory happe, And he was a-gast of **AFTER-CLAPPE**.

c. 1420. OCCLIVE, *De Reg. Princ.*, 855. That AFTER-CLAP in my mynde so depe Ifyccid is.

1515. LATIMER, *Sermons*, i. 27. He can give us an AFTER-CLAP when we least ween.

1573. MORE, *Richard III.* (1641), 404. To provide for AFTER CLAPES that might happen and chance.

1591. SPENSER, *Mother Huberd's Tale*. For the next morrow's need they closely went, For fear of AFTERCLAPS to prevent.

1611. SPRED, *Hist. Gl. Britain*, ix. iii. 31. Who fearing AFTERCLAPS, had strongly fortified the Castle.

1624. MASSINGER, *Renegado*, i. 3. To spare a little for an AFTERCLAP Were not improvidence.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, i. iii. 4. What plaguy Mischiefs and Mishaps, Do dog him still with AFTERCLAPS.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie*, ix. Not minding Mischiefs, or Mishaps, Nor fearing Dido's AFTERCLAPS.

1715. SOUTH, *Sermons*, vi. 227. Those dreadful AFTERCLAPS which usually bring up the rear.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 3. And when you've stormed the Trojan gaps May you escape all AFTER-CLAPS.

c. 1852. *Traits of Amer. Humour*, 1. 226. I'm for no rues and AFTER-CLAPS.

1862. LUCAS, *Secularia*, 12. The mitigated AFTERCLAP of this [the French] Revolution in 1848.

**AFTER-DINNER MAN** (or **AFTER-NOON'S-MAN**), *subs. phr.* (old). —A man who drinks long into the afternoon: but see quot. 1877.

1614. OVERTURY, *A Wife, etc.* (1638), 196. Make him an AFTERNOONES MAN.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Mel. Democr.* to Reader (1657), 44. Beraldus will have drunkards, AFTERNOON MEN, and such as more than ordinarily delight in drink, to be mad.

1628. EARLE, *Microcos.* (A Player). Innes of Court men were undone but for him, hee . . . makes them AFTERNOONES MEN.

1830. *Dublin Sketch Bk.* The good Baronet (Sir Francis Burdett) was not only a foxhunter, but a celebrated AFTER-DINNER MAN. It must have been a good bout indeed in which he was worsted.

1877. SMYTHE-PALMER [*Notes and Queries*, 5 S. viii. 112]. AFTERNOONES MEN, equivalent to AFTER-DINNER MEN. It was the custom, formerly, to dine in the halls of our Inns of Court about noon, and those who returned after dinner to work must have been much devoted to business, or obliged to work at unusual hours by an excess of it.

**AFTERNOON-BUYER**, *subs. phr.* (provincial). — One who buys not until after the market dinner, thereby hoping to buy cheaper.

**AFTERNOON-FARMER**, *subs. phr.* (common). — A laggard; spec. a farmer late in preparing his land, in sowing or harvesting his crops; hence one who loses his opportunities.

**AFTERNOON-TEA**, *subs. phr.* (Roy. High Sch., Edin.). — Detention after three o'clock.

**AFTER TWELVE.** *See TWELVE.*

**AGAINST.** AGAINST THE GRAIN (COLLAR, OR HAIR), *phr.* (colloquial). — Contrary to inclination; unpleasant; unwillingly done (GROSE).

1580. NASH, *Martin's Monthes Myns* [GROSART, i. 188]. For hee euer went AGAINST THE HAIRE.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, ii. 3. If you should fight, you go AGAINST THE HAIR of your profession.

1621. MONTAGUE, *Diatribe*, 168. This translation cannot passe by you, being somewhat AGAINST THE HAIRE for you.

1661. MIDDLETON, *Queenborough*, xi.

122. Books in women's hands are as much AGAINST THE HAIR . . . as to see men wear stomachers.

1673. DRYDEN, *Amboyna*, i. This wholesome cutting of throats, . . . goes a little AGAINST THE GRAIN. *Ibid.* (1693), *Journal*, i. 202. Though much AGAINST THE GRAIN for'd to retire.

1709. STEELE, *Tatler*, No. 2. Nothing in nature is so ungrateful as story-telling AGAINST THE GRAIN.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 81. My present occupation is much AGAINST THE GRAIN.

1868. COLLINS, *Moonstone*, i. xi. The other servants followed my lead, sorely AGAINST THE GRAIN, of course, but all taking the view that I took.

1875. H. ROGERS, *Superh. Orig. Bible*, i. A system of ethics, so much AGAINST THE GRAIN as that of the Gospel.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 114. If they owe their governors a few pounds, they are working an uphill game, or AGAINST COLLAR.

1884. CLARK RUSSELL, *Jack's Courtship*, xxiii. It went AGAINST MY GRAIN to leave the poor little chap alone.

TO RUN AGAINST, *verb phr.* (colloquial).—To meet by accident: *e.g.*, I RAN AGAINST him the other day in Brighton.

AGAZE, *adv.* (old, and long obsolete: now American thieves').—Astonished; open-eyed (MATESELL, *Vocabulium*). [Century Dict.: The examples cited (*infra*) are the only ones found.]

c. 1400. *Chester Plays*, ii. 85. The were so sore AGASED.

1557. SURREY, *Songes and Sonnettes*. As ankered faste my spretes doe all resorte To stande AGAZED.

1591. SHAKESPEARE, i *Henry VI*. The devil was in armes: All the whole army stood AGAZ'D on him.

1600. [FARR, *Select Poet* (1845), ii. 438. Of understanding rob'd I stand AGAZD.

16[?]. *Percy Folio MSS.* [FURNIVALL]. Whereatt this dreadful conqueror Thereatt was sore AGAZED.

-AGGER, *insep. suffix* (Charterhouse).—As in COMBINAGGERS= a combination suit: esp. of football attire.

AGGRAVATOR (AGGERAWATOR, or HAGGERAWATOR), *subs.* (common).—A lock of hair brought down from the forehead, well greased, and twisted in a spiral on the temple, either toward the ear, or conversely toward the outer corner of the eye. Usually in *pl.*, once an aid to beauty: now rare.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. Bell-ropes; beau-catchers; cobbler's-knots; cowlicks; love-locks; Newgate knockers; number sixes; spit-curls.

FRENCH SYNONYMS. Accroche-coeurs; guiches; roufaquettes.

1836. DICKENS, *Sketches by Bos*, 132. His hair carefully twisted . . . till it formed a variety of . . . semi-curls, usually known as 'AGGERAWATORS.'

1859. FOWLER, *Southern Lights and Shadows*, 38. The ladies are addicted to . . . hair, embellished with two or three c's—AGGRAVATORS they call them—running over the temple.

1885. BURTON, *Thousand Nights*, i. 168. Note 3.—In other copies the fourth couplet swears by the scorpions of his brow, *i.e.*, the accroche-coeurs, or AGGRAVATORS.

AGILITY, *subs.* (common).—The female privity: *see MONOSYLLABLE*.

AGITATOR, *subs.* (obsolete).—i. 'In Eng. Hist. An agent, one who acts for others; a name given to the agents or delegates of the private soldiers in the Parliamentary Army, 1647-9; in which use it varied with ADJUTATOR' (O. E. D.). [J. A. H. MURRAY: 'Careful investigation satisfies me that AGITATOR was the actual title, and ADJUTATOR originally only a bad spelling of soldiers familiar with Adjutants and the Adjutors of 1641.]

2. (common).—A bell-rope, or knocker. To AGITATE THE COMMUNICATOR = to ring the bell.

**Agogare**, *intj.* (American thieves').—Be quiet! a warning signal [from AGOG].—*New York Slang Dictionary*.

**Agony**. To PILE UP (or ON) THE AGONY, *verbal phr.* (common).—To exaggerate; to use the tallest terms in lieu of the simplest; to cry 'Hell!' when all you mean is 'Goodness gracious!': as a newspaper when 'writing up' murder, divorce, and other sensations. Also TO AGONIZE. Hence AGONY-PILER (theatrical) = a player in sensational parts. See AGONY-COLUMN.

1857. C. BRONTE [GASKELL'S *Life*, xxv.]. I doubt whether the regular novel-reader will consider the 'AGONY PILED sufficiently high . . . or the colours dashed on to the canvas with the proper amount of daring.

1865. *Athenaeum*, 1866, 26. 2. Everyone who has no real fancy seems AGONIZING after originality.

1871. MACDONALD, *Wilfred Combermeade*, i. xv. I might AGONIZE in words for a day and I should not express the delight . . .

1881. BLACK, *Beautiful Wretch*, vi. Sooner or later that organ will shake the Cathedral to bits . . . there was a great deal too much noise. You lose effect when you PILE UP THE AGONY like that.

1903. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 20 April, 6. 3. Mirbeau has made the one mistake he always makes, that—in the language of the gallery gods—of PILING UP THE AGONY too much.

**Agony-column**, *subs. phr.* (popular).—A special column in newspapers devoted to harrowing advertisements of missing friends and private business: orig. the second column of the *Times*.

1870. L. OLIPHANT, *Piccadilly*, ii. 78. The advertisement of the committee, . . . appeared in the AGONY COLUMN of the *Times*.

1873. BLACK, *Princess of Thule*. And how does she propose to succeed? Pollaky? The AGONY COLUMN? Placards, or a Bell-man? *Ibid.* (1881), *Beautiful Wretch*, xxiii. There were anonymous appeals to the runaways in AGONY COLUMNS.

1880. *Times*, 28 Dec., 10. 1. A cryptogram in the AGONY-COLUMN.

**Agree**. To AGREE LIKE PICK-POCKETS IN A FAIR, *verb. phr.* (common).—To agree not at all. Other similes of the kind are 'To AGREE LIKE BELLS, they want nothing but hanging'; and 'To AGREE LIKE CATS AND DOGS' (or 'LIKE HARP AND HARROW').

**Agricultural-implement**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A spade; 'call a spade a spade and not AN AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT' = a direct call to very plain speech.

**Aground**, *adv.* (GROSE).—'Stuck fast; stopped; at a loss; ruined; like a boat or vessel AGROUND.' [This accepted figurative use of the nautical phrase was rare prior to the nineteenth century.]

**Agreeable Ruts of Life (The)**, *subs. phr.* (venery).—The female pudendum: see MONOSYLLABLE.

**Aiglers (The)**, *subs. phr.* (military).—The 1st battalion of The Royal Irish Fusiliers, late The 87th Foot. [At Barrosa they captured the Eagle of The 8th French Light Infantry, a fact now commemorated in one of the distinctive badges of the regiment, viz., An Eagle with the figure 8 below.]

**AIM**, *subs.* (B. E., c. 1696).—‘Endeavour or Design’ . . . ‘he has missed his Aim or end.’

**AIN'T** (**HAIN'T** or **AN'T**), *verb.* (vulgar).—That is, ‘are not,’ ‘am not,’ ‘is not,’ ‘have not,’ [O.E.D.], ‘in the popular dialect of London, Cockney speech in Dickens, etc.]. *See* **Ā'NT**.

1701. FARQUHAR, *Sir Harry Wildair*, i. 1. Why, I HAN'T tasted a bit this year and a half.

1706. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, i. i. 24. But if your Eyes A'NT quick of Motion.

1734. FIELDING, *Old Man*, 1007, i. Ha, ha, ha! A'NT we? no! How ignorant it is.

1763. FOOTE, *Mayor of Garratt*, i. Ve HA'NT been married a year. *Ibid.* ii. May be 'tis, and may be 'TAN'T.

1778. BURNAY, *Evelina*, i. xxii. Those you are engaged to A'NT half so near related to you as we are.

c. 1800. DIBBIN, *Song*, ‘Poor Jack.’ A tight little boat and good sea-room give me, And T'AIN'T for a littl I'll strike.

1812. H. and J. SMITH, *Rej. Add.*, 69. No, that A'NT it, says he.

1828. LYTTON, *Pelham*, lxii. A'NT we behind hand?

1829. LAMB, *Life and Letters*, i. 348. A'NT you glad about Burk's case?

1864. TENNYSON, *Northern Farmer*, xiii. Joânes, as 'A'NT a 'âpoth o' sense.

1865. DICKENS, *Mutual Friend*, iii. ‘You seem to have a good sister.’ ‘She AIN'T half bad.’

**AIR.** **CASTLES IN THE AIR** (THE SKIES, IN SPAIN, etc.), *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—Generic for (1) the impossible, (2) imagination; and (3) hope: *see* ANALOGOUS PHRASES. To **BUILD CASTLES**, etc. = (1) to attempt the impossible; (2) to dream of visionary projects; to indulge in idle dreams; and (3) to be sanguine of success. Hence **IN THE AIR** = (1) uncertain, in doubt; and (2)

anticipated (in men's minds) as likely; **AIR-BUILT** = chimerical; **AIR-CASTLE** = the land of dreams and fancies; **AIR-MONGER** = a dreamer. [For many additional and some earlier quots., *see* SPAIN.]

**ANALOGOUS PHRASES** [Avow-  
edly generic, and inserted in this  
place because as convenient as  
any other: the senses, too, must  
obviously sometimes overlap].  
1 (=the impossible). To square  
the circle; to wash a blackamore  
white; to skin a flint; to make a  
silk purse out of a sow's ear; to  
make bricks without straw; to  
weave a rope of sand; to extract  
sunbeams from cucumbers; to set  
the Thames on fire; to milk a  
he-goat into a sieve; to catch a  
weasel asleep; to be in two places  
at once; to plough the air; to  
wash the Ethiopian; to measure  
a twig; to demand a tribute of  
the dead; to teach a pig to play  
on a flute; to catch the wind in  
a net; to change a fly into an  
elephant; to take the spring from  
the year; to put a rope in the  
eye of a needle; to draw water  
with a sieve; to number the waves.  
Also (FRENCH) *prendre la lune*  
*avec les dents*; *rompre l'argouille*  
*au genou*.

2 (=imagination). To **HAVE**  
maggots, or whimseys; **TO SEE** an  
air-drawn dagger, the flying Dutch-  
man, the great sea-serpent, the man  
in the moon; **TO DREAM** of Utopia,  
Atlantis, the happy valley, the  
isles of the West, the millennium,  
of fairy land, the land of Prester  
John, the kingdom of Micomicon;  
to set one's wits to work; to strain  
(or crack) one's invention; to  
rack (ransack, or cudgel) one's  
brains.

3 (=hope). To seek the pot of gold (Fr. *pot au lait*) ; to dream of Alnaschar ; to live in a fool's paradise ; TO SEE a bit of blue sky, the silver lining of the cloud, the bottom of Pandora's box ; to catch at a straw ; to hope against hope ; to reckon one's chickens before they are hatched.

1575. GASCOGNE, *Steel Glass* [CHALMERS, *Eng. Poets*, ii. 58]. Things are thought, which never yet were wrought, And CASTELS buyl aboue in lofty SKIES.

1580. NORTH, *Plutarch* (1696), 171. They built CASTLES IN THE AIR and thought to do great wonders.

1590. GREENE, *Orl. Fur.* (1599), 16. In conceite builde CASTLES IN THE SKIE.

1594. SHAKSPEARE, *Richard III.*, iii. 4. 100. Who BUILDS his hopes IN AIR of his good looks.

1601. IMP. *Consid.* (1675), 60. Mr. Saunders (BUILDING CASTLES IN THE AIR amongst his Books).

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, I. III. i. 2. (1651), 187. That CASTLE IN THE AYR, that crochet, that whimsie.

1627. FELTHAM, *Resolves*, I. xv. Thou AIR-MONGER that, with a madding thought, thus chaseth fleeting shadows.

c. 1630. DRUMMOND of Hawth., *Poems*, 42. 2. Strange CASTLES BUILDED IN THE SKIES.

1727. POPE, *Dunciad*, iii. 10. The AIR-BUILT CASTLE and the golden Dream.

1757. WESLEY, *Works* (1872), ix. 304. A mere CASTLE IN THE AIR.

c. 1763. SHENSTONE, *Odes* (1765), 237. To plan frail CASTLES IN THE SKIES.

1797. JEFFRESON, *Writ.* (1859), iv. 186. I consider the future character of our republic AS IN THE AIR ; indeed its future fortune will be IN THE AIR, if war is made on us by France.

1831. CARLYLE, *Sart. Res.* (1858), 32. High AIR-CASTLES cunningly built of Words.

1879. FARRAR, *St. Paul*, I. 642. These . . . points . . . were not peculiar to Philo. They were, so to speak, IN THE AIR.

'AIR OF A FACE OR PICTURE' (B. E., c. 1696), 'the Configuration and Consent of Parts in each.' [For this 18th century quoits. are given in O.E.D.]

TO AIR ONE'S VOCABULARY, verb. phr. (old).—To talk for phrasing's sake ; TO FLASH THE GAB (q.v.). [One of the wits of the time of George IV., asked what was going on in the House of Commons, answered that Lord Castlereagh was AIRING HIS VOCABULARY.]

TO AIR ONE'S HEELS, verb. phr. (popular).—To loiter; to hang about : see COOL and HEELS.

AIR-AND-EXERCISE, subs. phr. (old).—1. A whipping at the cart's tail ; SHOVING THE TUMBLER (q.v.). Also (2) the revolving pillory ; and 3 (thieves') = penal servitude (in America = a short term of imprisonment) (GROSE).

AIRING. See OUT.

AIR-LINE. See BEE-LINE.

AIRY, adj. (old [B. E.]): now recognised).—‘Light, brisk, pleasant . . . He is an AIRY Fellow.’

AJAX (or JAKES), subs. (old).—A privy ; a JAKES (q.v.): popularised by Sir John Harrington (see quot. 1822). Also a term of abuse. See JAKES and JAKES-FARMER.

1551. STILL, *Gammer Gurton's Needle*, iii. 3. Thou wert as good kiss my tail ; Thou slut, thou cut, thou rakes, thou JAKES.

1594. SHAKSPEARE, *Love's Labour's Lost*, v. 2. Your lion, that holds his poll-ax, sitting on a close stool, will be given to AJAX.

1506. HARRINGTON, *The Metam. of AJAX* [Title].

1605. CAMDEN, *Remains*, 117. Inquire, if you understand it not, of Cloacina's chaplains, or such as are well read in AJAX.

1609. JONSON, *Epicane*, iv. 5. A stool were better, sir, of Sir AJAX, his invention. *Ibid.* (1616) *Famous Voyage*, vi. 290. And I could wish for their eterniz'd sakes, My muse had plough'd with his that sung A-JAX.

c. 1609. HEALEY, *Disc. of New World*, 150. John Fisticankoes, AJAX his sonne and heyre.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Retraict*. An AJAX, priuie, house of Office.

1665. J. COTGRAVE, *Eng. Treasury*, p. 16. Which (like the glorious AJAX of Lincoln's Inne, I saw in London) laps up naught but filth and excrements.

1604. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. vi. Who of late years have stirred up the JAKES.

1720. *Hosp. of Incurab. Fooles*, 6. A patron and protector of AJAX and his commodities.

1822. NARES, *Glossary*, s.v. *AJAX*. . . Sir John Harrington, in 1506, published his celebrated tract, called 'The Metamorphosis of AJAX,' by which he meant the improvement of a jakes, or necessary, by forming it into what we now call a water-closet, of which Sir John was clearly the inventor.

AKERMAN'S HOTEL, *subs.* (obsolete). —Newgate prison. [The governor's name was AKERMAN c. 1787]. —See CAGE.

AKEYBO, *subs.* (HOTTEN). —'A slang phrase used in the following manner:—He beats AKEYBO, and AKEYBO beat the devil.'

A-LA-MORT. *See* AMORT.

ALBANY BEEF, *subs. phr.* (American). —The flesh of the sturgeon. [Some parts of the fish have a resemblance, in colour, and taste, to beef. It was caught in large numbers as far up the Hudson River as Albany.]

ALBERTOPOLIS, *subs.* (obsolete). —The Kensington Gore district: out of compliment to the late Prince Consort, who was closely identified with the Albert Hall and the Exhibition buildings of 1862.

1864. YATES, *Broken to Harness*, xxxiii. A composition for the nutriment of the hair, which . . . has an enormous circulation over the infant heads of ALBERTOPOLIS.

ALBONIZED, *adj.* (pugilistic). —Whitened [L. *albus*].

ALCOVE (THE), *subs.* (venery). —The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

ALDERMAN, *subs.* (obsolete). —1. A half-crown; 2s. 6d.: see RHINO (SNOWDEN, *Mag. Assist.*, 1857).

2. (old). —A long clay pipe; a CHURCHWARDEN (*q.v.*).

1859. FAIRHOLT, *Tobacco* (1876), 173. Such long pipes were reverently termed ALDERMAN in the last age, and irreverently yards of clay in the present one.

3. (old). —See *quots.* ALDERMAN IN CHAINS = garnished with sausages.

1782. PARKER, *Humorous Sketches*, 31. Nick often eat a roast fowl and sausage with me, which in cant is called an ALDERMAN, double slang'd.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. ALDERMAN. A roasted turkey garnished with sausages; the latter are supposed to represent the gold chain worn by those magistrates.

4. (thieves'). —A JEMMY (*q.v.*): sometimes ALDERMAN JEMMY. A weightier tool is the LORD MAYOR (*q.v.*).

1883. D. *Telegr.*, 14 May, 3.7. Safe-breaking tools had been . . . left behind, including wedges, an ALDERMAN JEMMY, a hammer weighing 14 lbs.

1888. *Sat. Review*, 15 Dec., 719. The iron shutters were prised open [by] the ALDERMAN . . . it would never do to be talking about crowbars in the street.

5. (Felsted School: obsolete). —A qualified swimmer. [The Alders=a deep pool in the Chelmer.] See FARMER, *Public School Word Book*.

BLOOD AND GUTS ALDERMAN. See BLOOD AND GUTS.

ALDERMAN LUSHINGTON, *subs. phr.* (old).—See quot.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. LUSH. To drink; speaking of a person who is drunk, they say, ALDERMAN LUSHINGTON is concerned, or that he has been voting for the Alderman.

ALDERMAN'S PACE, *subs. phr.* (old). See quot. 1611.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Pass* *Abb.* ALDERMAN'S PACE, a leasurely walking, slow gate.

1629. GAULE, *Holy Madness*, 94. What an ALDERMAN'S PACE he comes.

1672. RAY, *Proverbs*. He is PACED LIKE AN ALDERMAN.

ALDGATE. DRAUGHT ON THE PUMP AT ALDGATE, *subs. phr.* (old).—A worthless bill of exchange (GROSE).

ALE, *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. A merry-making; any occasion for drinking: see quot. 1587, 1776, and 1847, and cf. WINE; (2) an ale-house. Hence ALECIE (or ALECY) = drunkenness; ALE-BLOWN (ALE-WASHED or ALECIED) = drunk; ALE-DRAPER (whence ALE-DRAPERY) = an inn-keeper (GROSE: cf. ALE-YARD); ALE-SPINNER = a brewer; ALE-KNIGHT (ALE-STAKE, or ALE-TOAST) = a tippler, a pot-companion; ALE-POST = a maypole

(GROSE); ALE-PASSION = a headache; ALE-POCK = an ulcered GROG - BLOSSOM (*q.v.*); ALE-CRUMMED = grogshot in the face; ALE - DAGGER (see quot. 1589); ALE-SWILLING = tippling, etc.

1562. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman* (WRIGHT), 83. Faiteden for hire foode, Foughten at the ALE.

1383. CHAUCER, *Can. Tales*, 'Frere's Tale, 49. And maken hem gret festes at the NALE.

1480. CAXTON, *Descr. Brit.*, 40. When they drynke atte ALE, They telle many a lewd tale.

c. 1500. [HALLIWELL, *Mdg. Poet*, 'Carp. Tools,' 19]. When thei have wrought an ower or two, Anone to the ALE thei wylle go.

1570. *Discoverie of the Knights of the Poste* (HALLIWELL). Nowe he hath . . . become a draper. A draper, quoth Freeman, what draper, of woollin or linnen? No, qd he, an ALE-DRAPER, wherein he hath more skil then in the other.

1544. *Supp. Henry VIII.*, 41. Keepinge of church ALES, in the whiche with leapyng, daunsyng, and kyssyng they maynteyne the profite of their churche.

1575. *Eccl. Proc., Chester*. [The Vicar of Whalley, Lanc., is charged with being a common dronker and ALE KNIGHT.]

1583. GOLDING, *Calvin on Deut.*, ii. 305. These tauerhaunters or ALEHOUSE-KNIGHTES.

1583. BABBINGTON, *Works*, 166. Gadding to this ALE or that. *Ibid.*, 104. If he be a drunken ALE-STAKE, a tick-tack tauerner.

1587. HARRISON, *England*, i. ii. i. 32 (1587). The superfluous numbers of idle waks . . . church-ALES, helpe-ALES, and soule-ALES, called also dirge-ALES with the heathenish rioting at bride-ALES are well diminished.

1589. PAPPY WITH HATCHET (1844), 8. He that drinkes with cutters must not be without his ALE-DAGGER.

1591. SHAKSPEARE, *Two Gentlemen* ii. 5. 61. Thou hast not so much charity in thee as to go to the ALE with a Christian. *Ibid.* (1599), *Henry V.*, iii. 6. 62. ALE-WASHT wits. *Ibid.* (1609) *Pericles*, i. Introd. On ember-eves and holy ALES.

1592. CHETTLE, *Kinde-Harts Dreame*, 15. One in a sneaking treble, the other in an ALE-BLOWEN base carowle out . . . ribaudry. *Ibid.* Two milch maydens that had set up a shopp of ALE-DRAPERY. *Ibid.* No other occupation have I but to be an ALE-DRAPER.

1593. BACCHUS *Bountie* [Harl. Misc. (1809), II. 271]. A passing preservative against the ALE-PASSION, or paine in the pate.

1594. LVLV, *Mother Bombie*, Cc. 9. If he had arrested a mare instead of a horse, it had beene a slight oversight, but to arrest a man, that hath no likeness of a horse, is flat lunacie, or ALECIE.

1598. FLORIO, *World of Wordes*, s.v. *Bebne*. An ALE-KNIGHT, a toss-pot.

1598. E. GILPIN, *Skial*. (1878), 55. There brauls an ALE-KNIGHT for his fat-grown score.

1599. NASHE, *Piers Pennilesse*, Eij. Elderton consumed his ALE-CRUMMED nose to nothing.

1601. HOLLAND, *Pliny* (1634), II. 128. Sauce-fleame, ALE-POCKS, and such-like ulcers in the face.

1602. THOMAS, *Lord Cromwell*, iii. 1. O, Tom, that we were now at Putney, at the ALE there.

1611. COTgrave, *Dict.*, s.v. *Beste*. Our ALE-KNIGHTS often use this phrase.

1617. ASSHETON, *Journal* (1848), I. Besse, John, wyffe, self, at ALE.

1633. JONSON, *Tale of a Tub*, Prol. And all the neighbourhood, from old records Of antique proverbs, draw from Whitsun lorde, And their authorities at wakes and ALES.

1635. TAYLOR, *T. Parr*, Cij, b. T'a Whitson ALE, Wake, Wedding, or a Faire.

1654. WITT'S *Recreations*. Come all you brave wights, That are dubbed ALE-KNIGHTS.

1655. YOUNGE, *Charge against Drunkenness*, 13. These godlesse ALE-DRAPERS.

1656. TRAP., *Exp. i Tim.* iii. 3. No ALE-STAKE, tavern-hunter that sits close at it.

1661. HEVLIN, *Hist. Presb.*, 281. Nor do they speak any better of the Inferior Clergy . . . of whom they tell us . . . That they are Popish Priests, or Monks, or Friars, or ALE-HAUNTERS.

1691. SHADWELL, *Scoulers*, i. 1. Every night thou clearest the streets of . . . idle rascals, and of all ALE-TOASTS and sops in brandy.

1747. In *Parish Register of Scotter, Linc.* [Buried], July 8th, Thomas Broughton, Farmer and ALE DRAPER.

1776. BRAND, *Pop. Antiq.*, i. 229. There were bride-ALES, church-ALES, clerk-ALES, give-ALES, lamb-ALES, leet-ALES, Midsummer-ALES, Scot-ALES, Whitsun-ALES, and several more.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Archaic Words*, s.v. ALE-FEAST. A festival or merrymaking, at which ALE appears to have been the predominant liquor, often took place after the representation of an old mystery, as in a curious prologue to one of the fifteenth century in MS. Tanner 407, f. 44.

1863-64. CHAMBERS' *Bk. of Days*, ii. 597. This man was a regularly dubbed ALE-KNIGHT, loved barley wine to the full.

1870. *D. News*, 28 Sep. There was a wining and dining, or better, a beering or ALEING and dining of the 'Southern brethren.'

3. (Stock Exchange).—In *pl.* = Messrs. S. Allsopp and Sons Limited Shares.

See ADAM'S ALE.

**ALEXANDER**, *verb*. (old). — 1. To hang. [ROGERS, *Roy. Hist. Soc.*, viii. : 'From the harsh and merciless manner in which Sir Jerome Alexander, an Irish judge (1660-1674) and founder of the Alexander Library at Trinity College, Dublin, carried out the duties of his office.']

2. (old).—To extol as an Alexander the Great.

1700. DRYDEN, *Tales from Chaucer*, 'The Cock and Fox,' 660. Ye princes, rais'd by poets to the gods, And ALEXANDER'D up in lying odes.

**ALEXANDRA LIMP**, *subs.* (obsolete). —An affected lameness: cf. GRECIAN BEND and ROMAN FALL.

1876. *Chambers' Journal*, No. 629. Your own advocacy of the Grecian bend and the ALEXANDRA LIMP—both positive and practical imitations of physical affliction.

**ALFRED DAVID**, *subs.* (common).—An affidavit: also AFFIDAVY; DAVY; and (occasionally) AFTER-DAVY.

1850. KINGSLEY, *Geoffrey Hamlyn*. He is engaged in receiving the AFTER-DAVY of a man who got his head broke by a tinker.

1865. DICKENS, *Mutual Friend*, (C.D. ed.), 94. The visitor . . . doggedly muttered, 'ALFRED DAVID.' 'Is that your name?' . . . 'My name?' . . . 'No; I want to see an ALFRED DAVID.'

c. 1880. HARRY ADAMS, *Music Hall Song*, 'Blighted Love.' And I'll take my ALFRED DAVID hot, She don't catch me there again.

**ALGERINE**, *subs.* (theatrical).—1. A manager-baiter, espec. when THE GHOST (*q.v.*) will not WALK (*q.v.*). Also (2) a petty borrower.

**ALIVE**, *adv.* (colloquial).—Alive occurs as an intensive and expletive: *e.g.*, ALIVE AND KICKING=very sprightly, ALL THERE (*q.v.*); also ALL ALIVE; MAN (HEART, or SAKES) ALIVE! (an emphatic address); TO LOOK ALIVE=to make haste; ALL ALIVE (tailors')=slovenly made (of garments).

c. 1845. HOOD, *Agric. Distr.*, vi. Says he, 'No matter, MAN ALIVE!'

1857. DICKENS, *Christ. Carol*, 43. Why, bless my HEART ALIVE, my dear, how late you are!

1858. HUGHES, *Scouring of White Horse*, 29. The Squires . . . told the men to LOOK ALIVE and get their job done.

1880. *Globe*, 4 Oct., 1. 3. His mother, the playwright's widow, as well as another son, named Gordon, were—to use a popular phrase—ALIVE AND KICKING.

**ALL**, *subs.* (workmen's).—In *pl.* = belongings: spec. tools: also AWLS: see BENS. Hence TO PACK UP ONE'S ALLS = to be gone; to desist.

1674. *Songs of the London Prentices*, 62. I'll pack up my AWLS and begone.

1674. COTTON, *Voy. Ireland*, III. 10. I then call to pay, And PACKING MY AWLS, whipt to horse, and away.

d. 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 84. I put no confidence in the king . . . should he pack up his AWLS for the other world I would not trust him.

1728. BAILEY, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v. PACK. To PACK UP HIS AWLS . . . to march off, to go away in haste.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 70. The devil . . . whispered in my ear that I should be a great fool to PACK UP MY ALLS when the prize was falling into my hands.

d. 1859. DE QUINCEY, *Herodotus*, ii. Old Boreas . . . was required to PACK UP HIS ALLS and be off.

2. See ALL-NATIONS.

3. (old).—See quot.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. ALLS. The five ALLS is a country sign, representing five human figures, each having a motto under him. The first is a king in his regalia; his motto, I govern ALL; the second, a bishop in pontificals; motto, I pray for ALL; third, a lawyer in his gown; motto, I plead for ALL; fourth, a soldier in his regimentals, fully accoutred; motto, I fight for ALL; fifth, a poor countryman with his scythe and rake; motto, I pay for ALL.

AT ALL! *intj.* (old).—'The cry of a gamester full of cash and spirit, meaning that he will play for any sums the company may choose to risk against him' (HALLIWELL).

ALL'S QUIET ON THE POTOMAC, *phr.* (American).—A period of rest, enjoyment, peace. [The phrase dates from the Civil War; its frequent repetition in the bulletins of the War Secretary made it ridiculous to the public.]

PHRASES AND COLLOQUIALISMS. ALL ABOUT IN ONE'S HEAD=light-headed; ALL ABOUT IT=the whole of the matter; ALL - AROUND (American)=thorough, ALL-ROUND (*q.v.*); ALL AT SEA=uncertain, vague; ALL FACE=naked; ON ALL FOOURS=fairly, equally, exactly; ALL HOLIDAY AT PECKHAM (see quot. 1811 and PECKHAM); ALL IN (Stock Exchange)=slow, FLAT (*q.v.*): of a market when there is a disposition to sell: whence ALL OUT=improving; ALL OVER=thoroughly, entirely, exactly; ALL ROUND MY HAT=queer, ALL-OVERISH (*q.v.*): That's ALL ROUND my hat = Bosh! SPICY AS ALL ROUND MY HAT = sensational; ALL SERENE=all's well, O.K., 'You know what I'm after'; ALL UP WITH=finished, done for; ALL T.H.=of the best, very good indeed (tailors'), ALL THERE (*q.v.*). See also ALIVE; ALL-NATIONS; ALONG; BEAT; BETTY MARTIN; BLUE; BANDY; BUM; CABOOSE; CHEEK; DICKEY; FLY; GAMMON; GAY; GO; HEAP; HOLLOW; HOUGH; JAW; LOMBARD-STREET; MOPS-AND-BROOMS; MOUTH; OUT; PIECES; SHEEP; SHOP; SHOOT; SKITTLES; SMASH; SMOKE; THERE; UP; WAY; WAY-DOWN.

1633. MARMION, *Antiquary*, i. You'll hardly find Woman or beast that trots sound of ALL FOUR; There will be some defect.

d. 1655. ADAMS, *Works*, i. 408. All similitudes run not, like coaches, ON FOUR wheels.

1704. *Gentleman Instructed*, 387. I do not say this comparison runs on ALL FOUR; there may be some disparity.

1710. ST. LEGER [SOMER, *Tracts* (1751), iii. 248]. Tho' the comparison should not exactly run UPON ALL FOUR when examined.

1811. *Lex. Balatr.* ALL HOLIDAY AT PECKHAM . . . signifying that it is all over with the business or person spoken of.

1834. SOUTHEY, *Doctor*, xciv. No prophecy can be expected to go UPON ALL FOOURS.

1857. TROLLOPE, *Three Clerks*, xiv. 'You're ALL SERENE, then, Mr Snape; said Charley.

1874. *Siliad*, 130. To whom the emissary, 'ALL SERENE,' And took the sovereign with a relish keen.

1877. D. TEL., 15 Mar. It must stand on ALL FOOURS with that stipulation.

1882. *Punch*, lxxii. 177, 1. I am nuts upon Criminal Cases, Perilce News, you know . . . And, thinks I, this will be 'tuppence coloured,' and SPICY AS ALL ROUND MY HAT.

1883. *D. News*, 8 Feb., 3. 7. The decision I have quoted is ON ALL FOOURS with this case.

**ALLACOMPAIN**, *subs.* (rhyming).—Rain: also ALACOMPAIN, ALICUMPANE, ELECAMPAIN: cf. FRANCE AND SPAIN.

**ALL- (or I'M-) AFLOAT**, *subs.* (rhyming).—A coat.

**ALL-BONES**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A thin bony person.

1602. HEYWOOD, *How a Man may Choose*, etc., s.v.

**ALLEVIATOR**, *subs.* (common).—A drink; refreshment: see GO.

1846. MARK LEMON, *Golden Fetter*. If any of you feel thirsty . . . I shall be happy to stand an ALLEVIATOR.

**ALLEY (ALLY OR ALAY)**, *subs.* (school).—I. A superior kind of marble. [Supposed to= 'alabaster,' of which they are sometimes made.] Also ALLY TOR (or TAW): cf. STONY (*q.v.*), BLOOD-ALLEY, and COMMONEY (*q.v.*).

1720. DE FOE, *Duncan Campbell*, iv. A large bag of marbles and ALLEYS.

1748. *Phil. Trans.*, xlvi. 456. Pellets, vulgarly called ALLEYS, which boys play withal.

1807. COLERIDGE, *Own Times*, III. 953. While he was playing at marbles would quarrel with the taws and ALAYS in his mouth, because he had understood it was the way Demosthenes had learned to splutter.

1833. PARIS, *Philos. in Sport*, x. 171. Why, your taw is a brown marble, and your ALLY . . . a very white one, is it not?

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick Papers*, 358. Inquiring whether he had won any ALLEY TORS or commoneys lately.

1865. CRAIK, *Christian's Mistake*, 37. An ALLY TAW, that is, a real alabaster marble.

1876. CLEMENS, *Tom Sawyer*, 27. Jim, I'll give you a marble. I'll give you a white ALLEY. White ALLEY, Jim! And it's a bully taw.

2. (venery).—THE ALLEY= the female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

THE ALLEY, *subs. phr.* (Stock Exchange).—Change Alley: *cf.* HOUSE, LANE, STREET, etc.

1720. *The Bubbler's Madley, Stock Jobbing Cards, or the Humours of Change Alley* [Title].

1775. ASH, *Dict.*, s.v. ALLEY . . . The place in the City of London where the public funds are bought and sold.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib*, 19. To office with all due despatch through the air, To the Bulls of THE ALLEY, the fate of the Bear.

**ALL-FIRED**, *adj. phr.* (orig. American).—A general intensive: *e.g.*, ALL-FIRED (=violent) ABUSE; an ALL-FIRED (=tremendous) NOISE; an ALL-FIRED (=very great) HURRY, etc. Also as *adv.* = unusually, excessively. For an apparent origin, *see* quot. 1755.

[1755. *World*, 140. How arbitrary . . . does mankind join words, that reason has put asunder! Thus we often hear of HELL-FIRE COLD, of devilish handsome, and the like.]

1835. HALIBURTON, *Clockmaker*, I. xxiv. 'Look at that 'ere Dives,' they say, 'what an ALL-FIRED scrape he got into by his avarice with Lazarus.' *Ibid.* I jumps up in an ALL-FIRED hurry.

1844. *Major Jones's Courtship*, 87. The first thing I know'd, my trowsers were plastered all over with hot molasses, which burnt ALL-FIRED bad.

1845. *Knickerbocker Mag.* [BART-LETT]. I'm dying—I know I am! The doctor will charge an ALL-FIRED price to cure me.

1850. PORTER, *Tales of the Southwest*, 58. Old Haines sweating like a pitcher with ice-water in it, and looking ALL-FIRED tired.

c. 1860. MILNE, *Farm Fence*, 8. Wonder if it is rum make potatoes rot so ALL-FIREDLY.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, xl. 'I knows I be so ALL-FIRED jealous; I can't a bear to hear o' her talkin', let alone writin' to—'

c. 1866. *Pickings from the Picayune*, 67. They had a mighty deal to say up in our parts about Orleans, and how ALL-FIRED easy it is to make money in it; but it's no harm and all hominy, I reckon.

1883. PAYN, *Thicker than Water*, xvii. You've been an ALL-FIRED time, you have, in selling those jars.

**ALL-FOURS.** TO PLAY AT ALL-FOURS, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To copulate: *see* RIDE.

*See* ALL.

**ALL-GET-OUT.** THAT BEATS ALL-GET-OUT, *phr.* (American).—A retort to any extravagant story or assertion.

**ALL-HARBOUR-LIGHT**, *phr.* (rhyming).—*See* quot.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 46. Note. Learned Judges, worthy Magistrates and other Innocents, are informed that 'ALL HARBOUR LIGHT' is cabby's favourite rhyming slang for 'all right.' *Ibid.* As westward she sailed, she remarked, This is ALL HARBOUR LIGHT.

**ALLICHOLLY**, *subs. (old)*.—Melancholy; SOLEMNCHOLLY (*q.v.*).

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Two Gent. Verona*, iv. 2. 27. Now, my young guest, methinks you're ALLYCHOLLY. *Ibid.* (1596), *Merry Wives*, i. 4. 164. She is given too much to ALLICHOLY and musing.

1736. WALPOLE, *Letters* (1861), i. 8. A disconsolate wood-pigeon in our grove . . . is so ALLICHOLLY as any thing.

**ALL NATIONS**, *subs. (old)*.—1. The tap-droppings of spirits and malt liquors: also ALLS, or ALL SORTS (*GROSE*).

1859. SALA, *Gaslight and Daylight*, vi. A counter perforated . . . allowing the drainings, overflows, and out-spillings . . . to drop through, which, being collected with sundry washings, and a dash, perhaps, of fresh material, is . . . dispensed under the title of ALL SORTS.

2. A parti-coloured or patched garment; a Joseph's coat.

**ALL-NIGHT-MAN**, *subs. phr. (obsolete)*.—A body-snatcher; a RESURRECTIONIST (*q.v.*).

1861. RAMSAY, *Remin.*, ii. 133. The body lifters, or ALL-NIGHT-MEN, as they were wont to be called.

**ALLOT**. To ALLOT UPON, *verb phr. (American colloquial)*.—To count upon; TO RECKON (*q.v.*); TO CALCULATE (*q.v.*).

1816. PICKERING, *Vocab. U. S.*, 31. I ALLOT UPON going to such a place.

1840. HALIBURTON, *Clockmaker* (1862), 93. And I ALLOT we must economise, or we will be ruined.

**ALL-OUT**, *subs. phr. (old colloquial)*.—A bumper; a carouse. Hence TO DRINK ALL OUT=to drain a bumper.

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Francoise*, 676. 2. I quaught, I DRINKE ALL OUT.

1542. BOORDE, *Int. Know.*, 151. There be many good felowes, the wyche wyll DRVNKE ALL OUT.

1605. VERSTEGAN, *Dec. Intell.* (1634), 13. To say DRINK a Garaus . . . which is to say ALL-OUT.

1611. COTgrave, *Dict.*, s.v. *Allus*, ALL-OUT; or a carouse fully drunk up.

**ALL-OVERISH**, *adj. (colloquial)*.—An indefinite feeling of apprehension or satisfaction. Also TO FEEL ALL OVER ALIKE, AND TOUCH NOWHERE=to feel confusedly happy. Also as *subs.*

1841. JOHN MILLS, *Old English Gentleman*, xxiv. 186. Isn't it natural for a body to feel a sort of a queer ALL-OVERISHNESS on the eve of a wedding, I should like to know?

1851. MAYHEW, *London Lab.*, III. 52. When the mob began to gather round, I felt ALL-OVERISH.

1854. AINSWORTH, *Flitch of Bacon*, ii. v. I feel a sort of shivering and ALL-OVERISHNESS.

1864. CLARKE, *Box for Season*, II. 195. That indescribable ALL-OVERISHNESS, resulting from too much drink.

1882. *Society*, 11 Jan., II. 1. 'What's the trouble?' asked the doctor. 'I feel a sort of dislocated ALL-OVERISHNESS.'

**ALL-OVER-PATTERN**, *subs. phr. (colloquial)*.—See *quot.*

1881. F. E. HULME, *Suggestions in Floral Design*. A term [ALL OVER PATTERN] used to denote a design in which the whole of a field is covered with ornament in contradistinction to such as have units only at intervals, leaving spaces of the ground between them.

**ALLOW**, *subs. (Harrow School)*.—A boy's weekly allowance.

*Verb. (chiefly dialectical and colloquial American)*.—To admit, declare, intend, think.

1580. BARET, *Alvearie*, A297. To ALLOWE, to make good or allowable, to declare to be true.

1843. CARLTON, *New Purchase* [BARTLETT]. The lady of the cabin seemed kind, and ALLOWED we had better stop where we were.

1856. FARNHAM, *California* [BARTLETT]. Gentlemen from Arkansas ALLOWED that California was no better than other countries.

[?]. *Dialect Ballad*, 'Tom Cladpole's Journey to Lunnum.' He LOWED he'd ge me half a crown, An treat me wud some beer.

1871. HOWELL, *Suburban Sketches*, 58. He said he ALLOWED to work it out.

1872. KING, *Sierra Nevada*, v. 98. I ALLOW you have killed your coon in your day.

1875. PARISH, *Dict. Sussex Dialect*, 13. Master Nappet, he ALLOWED that it was almost too bad.

1880. HARRIS, *Uncle Remus*, 48. I 'Lowb' maybe dat I might ax yo' fur ter butt 'gin de tree. *Ibid.*, 50. Brer Rabbit he 'Low he wuz on his way to Miss Meadows.

1880. *Scribner's Mag.*, June, 293. I 'LOWED I'd make him sorry fur it, an' I reckon I hev.

**ALL-ROUND** (Amer. **ALL-AROUND**), *adj. phr.* (colloquial).—Generally capable, adaptable, or inclusive; affecting all alike: *e.g.*, an ALL-ROUND (=average) RENT; an ALL-ROUND (=thorough) SCAMP; an ALL-ROUND CRICKETER=one good alike at batting, bowling, and fielding. Hence ALL-ROUNDER.

1869. *Notes on N. W. Prov. India*, 98. An ALL ROUND rent of so much per acre charged on the cultivation.

1881. PAYN, *Grape from a Thorn*, xl. He's a bad one ALL ROUND.

c. 1883. ANGLER'S *Souvenir*, 230. Very few anglers are ALL ROUND men—*i.e.*, devote themselves to . . . all branches of angling alike.

1883. GRAPHIC, 11 August, 138. 2. Foremost still as an 'ALL-ROUND' cricketer stands W. G. Grace.

1884. SHEPHERD, *Prairie Exper.*, 192. One of the usual ALL-ROUND men, who considered that he could do most things.

1886. LOWELL, *Oration at Harvard*, 8 Nov. Let our aim be . . . to give an ALL-ROUND education.

**ALL-ROUNDER**, *subs. phr.* (common).

—I. A shirt collar; spec. one the same height ALL ROUND the neck, meeting in front, or (as in clerical collars) at the back.

1857. TROLLOPE, *Three Clerks*, xxii. He had bestowed . . . the greatest amount of personal attention on his collar. . . . Some people may think that an ALL-ROUNDER is an ALL-ROUNDER, and that if one is careful to get an ALL-ROUNDER one has done all that is necessary. But so thought not Macassar Jones.

1860. *All Year Round*, 42. 369. That particularly demonstrative type . . . known as the ALL ROUNDER.

1865. STRANGFORD, *Selection* (1865), ii. 163. Dressed in full uniform, with high stand-up collar; the modern ALL ROUNDER not having got so far into Asia.

1875. *Chambers' Journal*, No. 586. To present himself in an ALL ROUNDER hat and coat of formal cut on Sunday.

## 2. See ALL-ROUND.

**ALL SAINTS.** *See MOTHER OF ALL SAINTS*, adding quot. *infra*.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 400. He drinks THE MOTHER OF ALL SAINTS: But tho' the toast's the very same, In Greek it bears another name.

**ALLSLOPS**, *subs.* (common).—Allsopp and Sons' ale. [At one time their brew, formerly of the finest quality, had greatly deteriorated.]

**ALL-SORTS.** *See ALL-NATIONS.*

**ALL SOULS.** *See MOTHER OF ALL SOULS.*

**ALLSPICE**, *subs.* (common).—A grocer: *see TRADES*.

**ALL-STANDING**, *adv. phr.* (nautical).—Fully dressed: hence TO TURN IN ALL-STANDING=to go to bed in one's clothes. Also BROUGHT UP ALL-STANDING=taken unawares.

**ALMA MATER**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—Originally (and properly) one's University; now applied to any place of training: school, college, or University.

1701. FARQUHAR, *Sir Harry Wild-air*, ii. 1. Ay, there [Oxford] have I been sucking my dear ALMA MATER these seven years . . . in spite of the university, I'm a pretty gentleman.

1718. POPE, *Dunciad*, iii. 338. Till Isis' elders reel . . . And ALMA MATER lye dissolv'd in port.

1762. FOOTER, *Liar*, i. 1. Why, then adieu, ALMA MATER! . . . farewell to the schools, and welcome the theatres.

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humph. Clinker* (1800), i. 34. Some good offices which you know he has done me since I left ALMA MATER.

1803. SCOTT [LOCKHART, *Life* (1839), II. 126]. The literary men of his ALMA MATER.

1833. PEIRCE, *Hist. Harvard Univ.*, App. 57. Benjamin Woodbridge was the eldest son of our ALMA MATER.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, II. i. The man whose school was the University, whose ALMA MATER was Oxonia itself.

1866. CARLYLE, *Inaug. Address*, 170. My dear old ALMA MATER.

1874. *The Blue*, 'Remin. of Christ's Hospital. Aug.' The musical arrangements of our ALMA MATER were something exceedingly below par.

**ALMANACK**, *subs. (venery)*.—The female pudendum: *see MONOSYLLABLE* and *ZADKIEL*.

**ALMAN-COMB**, *subs. phr. (old)*.—*See* *quot.* and *WELSH-COMB*.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, I. xxi. Afterwards he combed his hair with an AT MAN COMB, which is the four fingers and the thumb.

**ALMIGHTY**, *adj. and adv. (common)*.—An intensive: mighty, great, exceedingly.

1824. DE QUINCEY, *Works* (1871), XVI. 261. Such rubbish, such ALMIGHTY nonsense (to speak *transatlantic*) no eye has ever beheld. *Ibid.* (*Century*). He is in an ALMIGHTY fix.

1833. MARRIVAT, *Peter Simple* (1863), 328. An ALMIGHTY pretty French privateer lying in St. Pierre's.

1853. LYTTON, *My Novel*. The child . . . is crumpling up and playing ALMIGHTY SMASH with that flim-flam book. *Ibid.* Enough to destroy and drive into 'ALMIGHTY SHIVERS,' a decent fair-play Britisher like myself. *Ibid.* Let us cut short a yarn of talk which . . . might last to 'ALMIGHTY CRACK.'

1888. *New York Mercury*, 21 July. I wonder whether the other boys gits as many customers to that place? . . . If they do it must be ALMIGHTY full sometimes.

**ALMIGHTY - GOLD** (-MONEY, or [American] -DOLLAR), *subs. phr. (old)*.—The power or worship of money; Mammon.

1616. JONSON, *Epistle to Elizabeth, Countess of Rutland*. Whilst that for which all virtue now is sold, And almost every vice, ALMIGHTIE gold.

1706. FARQUHAR, *Recruiting Officer*, iii. 2. In what shape was the ALMIGHTY GOLD transformed that has bribed you so much in his favour?

1839. WASHINGTON IRVING, *Wolfert's Roost: A Creole Village*, 40. The ALMIGHTY DOLLAR, that great object of universal devotion throughout our land, seems to have no genuine devotee in these peculiar villages.

1857. BORTHWICK, *California*, 165. The ALMIGHTY DOLLAR exerted a more powerful influence in California than in the old States; for it overcame all pre-existing false notions of dignity.

1876. BESANT and RICE, *Golden Butterfly*, xxii. Genius . . . is apt to be careless of the main chance. It don't care for the ALMIGHTY DOLLAR; it lets fellows like me heap up the stamps.

1886. SUTHERLAND, *Australia*, 102. The travelling Yankee, with an overwearing confidence in the ALMIGHTY DOLLAR.

**ALMOND - FOR - A - PARROT**, *phr. (old)*.—*See* *quot.* 1672.

d. 1529. SKELTON, *Speake Parrot*, 7. Then PARROT must haue AN ALMON or a date.

1581. RICHE, *Farewell Mil. Prof.* [SHAKSPEARE SOC.], 63. Have you founde your tongue, now pretie peate? then wee most have AN ALMON FOR PARRAT.

1590. NASH, *ALMOND FOR A PARROT* [Title].

1601. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, v. 3. *Mab.* We . . . lie laughing . . . to remember how we sent you a bat-fowling. *Wafer. AN ALMOND, PARROT*; that's my *Mab's* voice.

1672. RAY [HAZLITT], *ALMOND FOR A PARROT* . . . Some trifle to amuse a silly person.

**ALOFT.** *To go aloft*, *verb. phr.* (nautical).—*To die*: see *HOP THE TWIG*.

1692. E. WALKER, *Morals of Epicets* (1737), Intr. His rich soul ALOFT DID SOAR.

c. 1800. DIBBIN, *Tom Bowling*. No more he'll hear the tempest howling, For death has broached him to . . . Faithful below, Tom did his duty, And now he's GONE ALOFT.

**TO COME ALOFT**, *verb. phr.* (old colloquial).—I. To vault; to play tricks: as a tumbler.

1624. MASSINGER, *Bondman*, iii. 3. Do you grumble? you were ever A brainless ass; but if this hold, I'll teach you To COME ALOFT, and do tricks like an ape.

2. (venery). — *To MOUNT* (*q.v.*).

1590. SPENSER, *Fairy Queen*. . . . That night nine times he CAME ALOFT.

**ALONG OF**, *prep. phr.* (colloquial or dialectical).—On account of; owing to; pertaining to; about: also (formerly) **ALONG ON**. [The O.E.D. traces the phrase back to Anglo-Saxon times: KING ALFRED (880). ALFRIC (c. 1000); *Beket* (c. 1300), from which period the history is continued *infra*].

1369. CHAUCER, *Troylus*, ii. 1001. On me is not ALONG thin evil fare. *Ibid.* (1383), *Cant. Tales*, 16398. I can not tell WHEREON it was ALONG, But wel I wot gret strif is us among.

1489. CAXTON, *Faytes of Armes*, i. viii. 19. Whome it is ALONGE or causest.

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Langue Françoise*, 427. 2. I am LONGE OF this stryfe: je suis en cause de cest estrif.

c. 1570. THYNNE, *Pride and Lowl.* (1581), 56. The villain sayth it is all LONG OF me.

1581. STAFFORD, *Exam. of Complaints*, 16 (New Shaks. Soc.). Complaining of general poverty, he says: 'WHEREOF IT IS LONGE, I cannot well tell.'

1601. HOLLAND, *Pliny*, 25 (MORRIS, *Elem. Hist. Eng. Gram.*, 198). And that is LONG OF contrarie causes.

1602. *Return from Parnassus* [ARBER], Prol. 3. It's all LONG ON you.

1611. SHAKSPEARE, *Cymbeline*, v. 5. 221. Oh, she was naught; and LONG OF her it was, That we meet here so strangely.

1667. BROOKE, *Fool of Quality* (1792), ii. 88. 'Tis all ALONG OF you that I am thus haunted.

1805. SCOTT, *Last Minstrel*, v. xxix. Dark Musgrave, it was LONG of thee.

1858. DICKENS, *Christmas Stories*, Going into Society, 65. Would he object, to say why he left it? Not at all; why should he? He left it ALONG OF a dwarf.

1881. BLACK, *Beautiful Wretch*, xviii. Mayhap the concert didn't come off, ALONG OF the snow.

**ALONG-SHORE** (or **LONGSHORE**) **BOY** (or **MAN**), *subs. phr.* (old).—A landsman (*GROSE*).

**ALOUD**, *adv.* (colloquial).—An intensive: e.g. TO TALK ALOUD = to rave; TO THINK ALOUD = to talk; TO WALK ALOUD = to run; TO STINK ALOUD = to overpower.

1872. *D. News*, 28 Feb. The stuff, to quote the trenchant expression of an onlooker, STANK ALOUD.

**ALPHA AND OMEGA (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: see *MONOSYLLABLE*.

**ALPHABET, THROUGH THE ALPHABET, phr.** (colloquial).—Completely ; first and last.

**ALSATIA, subs.** (old).—I. Whitefriars : a district adjoining the Temple, between the Thames and Fleet Street. [Formerly the site of a Carmelite convent (founded 1241) and possessing certain privileges of sanctuary. These were confirmed by a charter of James I. in 1608, whereafter the district speedily became a haunt of rascality in general, a Latinised form of Alsace having been jocularly conferred on it as a 'debatable land.' Abuses, outrage, and riot led to the abolition of its right of sanctuary in 1607.] Also **ALSATIA THE HIGHER**. Whence **ALSATIA THE LOWER** = the liberties of the Mint in Southwark ; **ALSATIAN** = a rogue, debtor or debauchee ; a resident in **ALSATIA** : and as *adj.* = roguish, debauched ; **ALSATIA - PHRASE** = a canting term (B. E. and GROSE). [See SCOTT, *Fortunes of Nigel*, chaps. xvi. and xvii.].

1688. SHADWELL, *Sq. of ALSATIA I.* in wks. (1720), iv. 27. He came out of White Fryers : he's some **ALSATIAN** bully.

1691. LUTTRELL, *Brief Rel.* (1857), II. 250. The benchers of the Inner Temple having given orders for bricking up their little gate leading into Whitefryers . . . the **ALSATIANS** came and pulled it down.

1691-2. *Gentlemen's Journal*, Feb., 5. Knights of the post, **ALSATIAN BRAVES**.

1704. *Gentleman Instructed*, 491. He spurr'd to London, and left a thousand curses behind him. Here he struck up with sharpers, scourers, and **ALSATIANS**.

1704. SWIFT, *Tale of a Tub*, 'Apology for Author.' The second instance to shew the author's wit is not his own, is Peter's banter (as he calls it in his **ALSATIA PHRASE**) upon transubstantiation.

1709. STEELE, *Tatler*, 66. Two of [my] supposed dogs [*i.e.*, gamblers or sharpers] are said to be whelped in **ALSATIA**, now in ruins ; but they, with the rest of the pack, are as pernicious as if the old kennel had never been broken down.

1787. GROSE, *Prov. Glossary, etc.* (1811), 82. A 'SQUIRE OF ALSATIA.' A spendthrift or sharper, inhabiting places formerly privileged from arrests.

1822. SCOTT, *Fortunes of Nigel*, xvii. You shall sink a nobleman in the Temple Gardens, and rise an **ALSATIAN** at Whitefriars . . . An extravagantly long rapier and poinard marked the true **ALSATIAN** bully.

2. (common). — Hence any rendezvous or asylum for loose characters or criminals, where immunity from arrest is tolerably certain ; a disreputable locality : the term has sometimes been applied (venomously) to the Stock Exchange. **ALSATIAN** = an adventurer ; a Bohemian.

1834. LYTTON, *Last Days of Pomp*. The haunt of gladiators and prizefighters—of the vicious and penniless—of the savage and the obscene—the **ALSATIA** of an ancient city.

18[?]. GREENWOOD, *Gambling Hell*. For this ruin the gambling house is responsible. Huntley is but one of the thousands who are stripped annually of all they possess in this modern **ALSATIA**.

1861. BRADDON, *Trail of Serpent*, II. i. Blind Peter was the **ALSATIA** of Slopperton, a refuge for crime and destitution.

1865. *D. Telegraph*, 22 Dec., 4. 6. The two countries are so closely allied that one cannot possibly be turned into an **ALSATIA** for the criminals of the other.

1876. LORD JUSTICE JAMES [*Ex parte* Saffery *re Cooke*, *Law Times*, 35, 718]. The Stock Exchange is not an **ALSATIA** ; the Queen's laws are paramount there, and the Queen's writ runs even into the sacred precincts of Capel-court.

1882. BESANT, *All Sorts and Cond. of Men*, vii. The road has come to be regarded as one of those ALSATIAN retreats, growing every day rarer, which are beyond and above the law.

**ALT.** IN ALT, *adv. phr.* (old colloquial).—In the clouds ; high-flying ; dignified. [*Altissimo*= a musical term]. Cf. ALTITUDE.

1748. RICHARDSON, *Clarissa*, v. 145. The fair fugitive was all in ALT.

1784. *European Mag.*, v. 425. I know you to be in ALT as to your religion.

1796. BURNET, *Camilla*, II. v. Come . . . be a little less in ALT . . . and answer a man when he speaks to you.

17[?]. COLMAN, *Musical Lady*, i. Moderato . . . madam ! Your ladyship's absolutely IN ALT . . . You have raised your voice . . . since you came into the room.

**ALTAR**, *subs.* (venery).—The female pudendum: see MONOSYLLABLE. Also ALTAR OF HYMEN (OF LOVE, OF PLEASURE).

**ALTEMAL** (or ALTUMAL), *subs.*, *adj.*, etc. (Old Cant).—See quot. Also as *intj.* (American thieves') = 'Cut it short,' 'STOW IT' (*g.v.*), 'STASH IT' (*g.v.*). [O.E.D.: 'Lat. *altum*, the deep, i.e. the sea + AL.' DUTCH *altermal*.]

c. 1696. B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. ALTEMAL, altogether.

1711. *Medleys*, 29 Jan. (1712), 186. His ALTUMAL cant, a mark of his poor Traffick and Tar-Education.

1753. CHAMBERS, *Cycl. Supp.* ALTUMAL, a term used to denote the mercantile style, or dialect. In this sense, we meet with ALTUMAL cant, to denote the language of petty traders and tars.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. ALTEMAL. A verbal or lump account, without particulars, such as is commonly produced at bawdy-houses, spongung-houses, etc. *Ibid.*, s.v. DUTCH RECKONING or ALLE-MAL.

1859. MATSELL, *Rogue's Lexicon*, 'On the Trail.' What was the ALTEMAL? It only raised fifteen cases. The dummy raked a case and a half, and the thimble was a first, but the slang and onions were bene.

**ALTER.** TO ALTER THE JEFF'S CLICK, *verb. phr.* (tailors').—To 'make up' a garment without regard to the cutter's chalkings or instructions.

**ALTHAM**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—See quot.

1563. AWDELEV, *Fraternitye of Vacabondes* [E. E. T. S.], 4. A curtall is much like to the Vpright man, but his authority is not fully so great. He vseth commonly to go with a short cloke, like to grey Friers, and his woman with him in like liuery, which he calleth his ALTHAM if she be hys.

**ALTITUDE.** IN ONE'S ALTITUDES, *phr.* (old).—Generic for high-mindedness. (1)=in lofty mood ; (2)=in high spirits ; (3)=‘hoity-toity’ ; and (4)=drunk (B. E. and GROSE); see SCREWED.

1616. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Laws of Candy*, ii. This woman's IN THE ALTITUDES.

1630. JONSON, *New Inn*, i. I have talked . . . above my share, . . . and been IN THE ALTITUDES, the extravagants.

1668. DRYDEN, *Evening's Love*, iii. If we men could but learn to value ourselves, we should soon take down our mistresses from all their ALTITUDES, and make them dance after our pipes.

1705. VANBRUGH, *Confed.* v. *Clar.* 'Who makes thee cry out thus, poor Brass?' Brass. 'Why, your husband, madam ; he's IN HIS ALTITUDES here.'

c. 1733. NORTH, *Examen*, 258. If we would see him IN HIS ALTITUDES, we must go back to the House of Commons . . . there he cuts and slashes at another rate.

1748. RICHARDSON, *Clarissa*, I. 252. 'The girl has got INTO HER ALTITUDES, Aunt Hervey,' said my sister. 'You see, Madam, she spares nobody.'

1782. JOHNSON, *Letter* 293 (1788), ii. 252. While you were IN YOUR ALTITUDES, at the Opera.

1783. BURGOYNE, *Lord of the Manor*, ii. 1. *Sophia*. Sir, I have tried . . . to treat you with respect; . . . resentment and contempt are the only—*Contrast*. Clarissa Harlow IN HER ALTITUDES!

1785. GROSE, *Dict. Vulgar Tongue*. The man is IN HIS ALTITUDES, i.e., he is drunk.

**ALTOCAD**, *subs.* (Win. Coll.).—A paid member of the choir who takes ALTO.

**ALTOGETHER**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—A whole; a *tout-ensemble*.

1667. WATERHOUSE, *Fire of London*, 141. Her Congregations, Her Citizens, Her ALTOGETHER has been as orderly . . .

1674. FAIRFAX, *Bulk and Selo*, 33. We only call . . . God's Alifflingness an ALTOGETHER, to loosen it from any thing of sundership.

1865. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 26 June, 9. American fingers . . . impart a finish and an ALTOGETHER (this is much better than to steal *tout-ensemble* from the wicked Emperor) . . .

THE ALTOGETHER, *subs. phr.* (artists'). Nudity; 'in the ALTOGETHER nude': popularised by Du Maurier's novel and play, *Trilby*.

**ALYBBEG**. *See LYBBEGE*.

**ALYCOMPAIN**. *See ALLACOM-PAIN*.

**AMAZON**, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A masculine woman; a virago. Also (the adjectival preceded the figurative substantive usage) AMAZONIAN = manlike, bold, quarrelsome [in quot. 1610= beardless].

1595. SHAKSPEARE, 3 *Henry VI.*, i. 4. How ill-beseeming is it in the sex To triumph like an AMAZONIAN trull. *Ibid.* (1610), *Coriolanus*, ii. 2. His AMAZONIAN chin.

1609. C. BULLER, *Monarchia Femina* (1673), 64. These AMAZONIAN dames begin to wax weary of their mates.

1711. STEELE, *Spectator*, 104, 3. This AMAZONIAN Hunting Habit for Ladies.

1758. JOHNSON, *Idler*, No. 6, 2. I am far from wishing . . . the AMAZON . . . any diminution . . . of fame.

1762. GOLDSMITH, *Female Warriors* [British Mag., Jan.]. When I see the avenues of the Strand beset every night with fierce AMAZONS . . . I cannot help wishing that such martial talents were converted to the benefit of the public.

1767. FORDVCE, *Sermons to Young Women*, i. iii. 105. To . . . men an AMAZON never fails to be forbidding.

1809. BYRON, *Childe Harold*, i. 57. Yet are Spain's maids no race of AMAZONS, But form'd for all the 'witching arts of love.'

1837. HOWITT, *Rural Life*, III. vi. His AMAZONIAN lady, half the head taller than himself.

1837. CARLYLE, *French Rev.*, i. vii. 5. Him . . . they suspend there . . . a horrible end! Nay, the rope broke, as French ropes often did; or else an AMAZON cut it.

1839. AINSWORTH, *Jack Shepherd* (1889), 69. Mistress Poll Maggot was a beauty on a much larger scale—in fact, a perfect AMAZON.

1844. *Blackwood's Mag.*, lvi. 214. Caps were dragged off, and nails shown with AMAZONIAN spirit.

1853. KANE, *Grinnell Exp.*, xlvi. 425. Extremes meet in the Esquimaux of Greenland and the AMAZONS of Paris.

2. (obsolete chess).—The Queen.

1656. BEALE, *Chesse-play*, 2. The Queen or AMAZON is placed in the fourth house from the corner of the field by the side of her King, and always in her own colour.

**AMBASSADOR**, *subs.* (nautical).— 'A trick to duck some ignorant fellow or landsman, frequently played on board ship in the warm latitudes. It is thus managed: a large tub is filled with water, and

two stools placed on each side of it. Over the whole is thrown a tarpaulin, or old sail, which is kept tight by two persons seated on the stools, who are to represent the king and queen of a foreign country. The person intended to be ducked plays the ambassador, and after repeating a ridiculous speech dictated to him, is led in great form up to the throne, and seated between the king and queen, who rise suddenly as soon as he is seated, and the unfortunate ambassador is of course deluged in the tub' (GROSE).

**AMBASSADOR OF COMMERCE**, *subs.* (common).—A commercial traveller ; A BAGMAN (*q. v.*).

1603. *People*, 29 Mar., 12. 5. **AMBIASSADORS OF COMMERCE**, London Commercial Travellers' Benevolent Society [Title].

**AMBES-ACE**. *See AMES-ACE*.

**AMBIA**, *subs.* (American).—Chewed-tobacco juice (BARTLETT) : also see quot.

1889. C. J. LELAND [*Slang Jargon and Cant*, s.v. **AMBIA**. The word **AMBIA**, as generally used at Princeton, which largely represents the solid South, is not applied to saliva, but to the intensely strong nicotine, or thick brown substance which forms in pipes. I have always supposed that it is merely a Southern variation of **AMBER**, which exactly represents its colour.

**AMBIDEXTER** (or **AMBODEXTER**). *subs.* (old legal).—*See* quot. Hence (2) a double-dealer ; a VICAR OF BRAY (*q. v.*). Also as *adj.* = deceitful, tricky.

1532. *Use of Dice Play* (1850), 17. Any affinity with our men of law? Never with these that be honest. Marry! with such as be **AMBIDEXTERS**, and used to play in both the hands.

1555. RIDLEY, *Works*, 27. They may be called neutrals, **AMBIDEXTERS**, or rather such as can shift on both sides.

1589. *Golden Mirror* [NARES]. An other sorte began to hyde their head, And many other did **AMBODEXTER** play.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. *Destriggiare*.

1599. PEELE, *Sir Clyomon* [Works, iii. 44]. Such shifting knaves as I am the **AMBODEXTER** must play.

1607. COWELL, *Law Dict.* s.v. **AMBIDEXTER** . . . that juror that taketh of both parties for the giving of his verdict.

1613. FINCH, *Law* (1636), 186. To call . . . an Attorne **AMBODEXTER**, or to say that he dealeth corruptly.

1624. E. S. [*Shakespeare Cent. Praise*, 154]. These **AMBI-DEXTER** Glibionites.

1652. BEULOWE, *Theop.*, XIII. xviii.

238. From costly bills of greedy Emp'ricks free From plea of **AMBO-DEXTERS** fee.

1691. BLOUNT, *Law Dictionary*. **AMBIDEXTER** . . . That Juror or Embraceor who takes Money on both sides, for giving his Verdict.

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. **AMBIDEXTER**, one that goes snacks in gaming with both Parties ; also a Lawyer that takes Fees of Plaintiff and Defendant at once.

1703. DE FOE, *Manners*, 93. Those **AMBIDEXTERS** in Religion, who Can any thing dispute, yet any thing can do.

1705. HICKERINGILL, *Priest-craft* (1721), i. 44. Nor **AMBODEXTER** Lawyers take a Fee On both Sides.

1841. DISRAELI, *Amen. Lit.* (1859), i. 362. Spun out of his own crafty **AMBIDEXTERTY**.

1856. DOVE, *Logic*, Chr. Faith, i. ii. Tortuous and **AMBIDEXTER** sophistries.

1864. PALGRAVE, *Norm. and Eng.* iii. 278. An **AMBIDEXTER**, owing fealty to both . . . and not faithful to either.

**AMBREE**. *MARY AMBREE*, *subs.* *phr.* (old).—Generic for a woman of strength and spirit [NARES].

**AMBROL**, *subs.* (B. E.). 'AMBROL, among the Tarrs for Admiral.'

**AMBUSH**, *subs.* (American thieves'). —Fraudulent weights and measures. [A punning allusion: to lie in wait, lying weight.] *Cf.* Fourbesque (Italian thieves' argot); *giusta*=a pair of scales, a balance, which in Italian=correct.

**AMEN**, *verb.* (colloquial). —To finish a matter: as **AMEN** does a prayer; to approve; to ratify. **TO SAY YES AND AMEN**=to agree to everything (GROSE); **AMENER**=a general conformist.

1812. SOUTHEY, *Letters*, ii. 281. Yea verily, this very evening have I **AMEN'D** the volume.

1854. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, lvii. Is there a bishop on the bench that has not **AMEN'D** the humbug in his lawn sleeves, and called a blessing over the kneeling pair of perjurors?

**AMEN - BAWLER** (- **CURLER** or -**SNORTER**), *subs. phr.* (old). —A parish clerk: also (military) **AMEN - WALLAH**: *see BLACK-COAT* (GROSE).

d. 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 16. Lower sells penny prayer-books all the week, and CURLS AN **AMEN** in a meeting-house on Sundays.

1858. MAYHEW, *Paved with Gold*, III. ix. He was nicknamed the 'AMEN BAWLER', and recommended to take to the 'hum-box.'

1888. *Bulletin*, 24 Nov. In Maoriland it is impossible to swing [a] cat without smiting some variety of **AMEN-SNORTER**. Still the saints are not happy.

1890. WHITEING, *John St.*, xxi. 'We represents the Musselbry branch of the Slav'ry Sersity,' says a sort of **AMEN-CURLER**, as was at the ead on 'em.

**AMERACE**, *adv.* (American thieves'). —Near at hand; within call.

**AMERICA**, *subs.* (venery). — The female *pudendum*: *see MONOSYLLABLE*; *cf.* INDIA.

1613. DONNE, *Elegy*, xix. License my roving hands, and let them go . . . Oh my **AMERICA** . . . safest when with one man man'd.

**AMERICAN SHOULDERS**, *subs. phr.* (tailors'). —A particular 'cut' in the shoulders of a coat: they are shaped to give the wearer a broad and burly appearance.

**AMERICAN TWEEZERS**, *subs. phr.* (thieves'). —An instrument to unlock a door from the outside, **NIPPERS** (*q.v.*).

**AMES-ACE** (**AMBS-ACE**, **AMBES-ACE**, etc.), *subs. phr.* (old colloquial). —1. Orig. and lit. the throw of two aces; the lowest cast at dice. Hence (2) misfortune; bad luck; nothing. **WITHIN AMES-ACE**=nearly, very near (GROSE): an emphasised form of **ACE**, which *see* for other quots.

1297. *Robert of Glouc.* 51. Ac he caste per of **AMBES AS**.

[?]. *MS. Laud.* 108, f. 107. Ake i-hered beo swete Jhesu Crist, Huy casten **AMBES-AS**.

[?]. *Harrowing of Hell*, 21 [MS. Digby, 36, f. 119]. Stille be thou, Sathanas, The ys fallen **AMBES AS**.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Man of Lawes Tale', 25. O noble, O prudent folk, as in this cas Your bagges ben not filled with **AMBES AS**, But with sis cink, that renneth for your chance.

c. 1420. LYDGATE, *Minor Poems* (1840), 166. Whos chaunce gothe neyther on synk nor sice, But withe **AMBES ACE** encresiteth his dispence.

d. 1529. SKELTON, *Works*, ii. 438. This were a hevy case, A chaunce of **AMBESASE**, To se youe broughte so base, To playe without a place.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *All's Well*, etc., ii. 3. I had rather be in this choice, than throw **AMES-ACE** for my life.

1647. CARTWRIGHT, *Ordinary* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), 238]. May I At my last stake, when there is nothing else To lose the game, throw **AMES-ACE** thrice together!

1709. WARD, *Terrefilius*, II. 13.  
'Tis a meer Scandal for a Man of your  
Wealth and Reputation, WITHIN AMES  
ACE of a Scarlet Gown, to shew yourself  
concern'd at such a Triflē.

1721. CENTLIVRE, *Gamester*, I. 1.  
My evil genius flings AM's ACE before me.

1731. FIELDING, *Lottery*, I. 249. If  
I can but nick this time, AME'S ACE, I  
defy thee.

1870. LOWELL, *Among my Books*, I.  
192. A lucky throw of words which may  
come up the sices of hardy metaphor, or  
the AMBS-ACE of conceit.

**AMINADAB**, *subs.* (old). — A  
Quaker: in contempt (GROSE).

1709. WARD, *Terrefilius*, vi. 11.  
Abigail . . . was AMINADAB's servant till  
happening to uncover her Nakedness . . .  
he thought it best . . . to take the Damsel  
to Wife.

**AMMUNITION**, *subs.* (old). — I.  
Originally applied to every re-  
quisite for soldiers' use, as AMMU-  
NITION bread, shoes, hat, etc.:  
now only of powder, shot, shell,  
and the like. Whence collo-  
quialisms such as AMMUNITION  
FACE = a warlike face; AMMUNI-  
TION WIFE (or WHORE) = a  
soldier's trull (GROSE); AMMU-  
NITION LEG = a wooden leg, etc.

c. 1658. CLEVELAND, *Cleveland Vin-  
dicated* (1677), 97. So much for his war-  
like or AMMUNITION FACE.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, I. i. 314.  
Link'd with many a piece of AMMUNITION  
BREAD AND CHEESE.

1663. ROBERTSON, *Phrascol. Gen.*,  
1320. An AMMUNITION WHORE, scortum  
castrum.

1717. PRIOR, *Alma*, iii. 215. That  
great Achilles might employ The strength  
designed to ruin Troy, He dined on lion's  
marrow, spread On toasts of AMMUNITION-  
BREAD.

1766. SMOLLETT, *Travels*, v. The  
king . . . allows them soldiers' pay, that is,  
five sols or twopence halfpenny a day; or  
rather, three sols and AMMUNITION BREAD.

1827. LYTTON, *Pelham*, vii. The  
one milliner's shop was full of fat squiresSES,  
buying MUSLIN-AMMUNITION.

2. (common). — **BUM-PODDER**  
(*q.v.*).

3. (venery). — The seminal  
fluid: *see CREAM*.

d. 1704. BROWN, *Works*, I. 75. The  
lavish Hero fir'd too fast . . . That when  
three poor attacks were past He wanted  
AMMUNITION.

**MOUTH - AMMUNITION**, *subs.*  
*phr.* (old). — Food: *cf.* **BELLY-**  
**TIMBER**.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. vii. If  
you would consume the MOUTH-AMMU-  
NITION of this island, you must rise be-  
times.

**AMORET** (or **AMORETTE**), *subs.*  
(old colloquial). — I. Originally  
a sweetheart: *see* quot. 1400;  
spec. (2) a mistress. [O.E.D.:  
'Eng. AMORET having become  
obsolete the word has recently  
been re-adopted from the  
French': *see* sense 4.] Whence  
(3) the concomitants of love: *e.g.*  
a love-knot, a love-sonnet, love-  
looks (*see* quot. 1590), and  
(in pl.) 'love-tricks, dalliances'  
(COTGRAVE) [*Cf.* AMORETTO  
(from the Ital.) = a lover, a  
sonnet, a SHEEP'S EYE.]

c. 1400. *Rom. of Rose*, 4758. Eke as  
well by AMORETTES In mourning blacke  
as bright burnettes. *Ibid.* 892. Clad . . .  
alle in floures and in florettes, Painted  
alle with AMORETTES.

1483. CAXTON, *G. de la Tour*, c. iv.  
Thought more to complaire and plesē their  
AMORETTES . . . than to plesē God.

1590. WATSON, *Poems* (1870), 171.  
Bestow no wealth on wanton AMORETS.

1590. LODGE, *Euphues' Gold. Leg.*  
Wryting AMORETS.

c. 1590. GREENE, *Friar Bacon*, xii. 8.  
Should . . . Phoebus scape those piercing  
AMORETS, That Daphne glanced at his  
deity?

1590. *Never too Late*, 82. Shee  
alluring him with such wile AMORETTES  
of a curtizan.

1594. DICKENSON, *Arisbas* (1878), 71. Sweet AMORETS were chaunted.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*. Amoretto, an AMORET, a little love, a wanton, a paramour.

1646. HALL, *Poems* 35. In each line lie More AMORETTOES then in Doris eye.

1651. SARPI, 92. My AMORETS and wantonness.

1654. GAYTON, *Fest. Notes*, 47. The AMORETTO was wont to take his stand at one place where sat his mistress.

1794. WARTON, *Sappho*. When AMORETS no more can shine, And Stella owns she's not divine.

4. (modern). AMOURETTE = a love-affair; an intrigue.

1865. CARLVILLE, *Fred. Great*, II. viii. ii. 161. A curious story about one of Prince Fred's AMOURETTES.

1871. *Pall Mall Gas*, 7 Feb., II. Youthful AMOURETTES more or less scandalous.

AMPERSAND, *subs.* (American).—I. The posteriors: see BUM.

2. (colloquial). — The sign '&'; ampersand. VARIANTS: AND-PUSSY-AND; ANN PASSY ANN; ANPASTY; ANDPASSY; ANPARSE; APERSIE (*q.v.*); PERSE; AMPASSY; AM-PASSY-AND; AMPERSE-AND; AMPUS-AND; AMPUSSY AND; AMPAZAD; AMSIAM; AMPUS-END; AP-PERSE-AND; EMPERSI-AND; AMPERZED; and ZUMZY-ZAN.

1764. MACKLIN, *Man of the World*. A shrivelled, cadaverous, neglected piece of deformity, i' the shape of an ezard or an EMPERSI-AND, or in short anything.

d. 1843. SOUTHEY, *Letters*, I. 200. The pen commandeth only twenty-six . . . these are its limits—I had forgotten AND-PUSSEY-AND.

1859. ELIOT, *Adam Bede*. But he observed in apology, that if [the 'z'] was a letter you never wanted hardly, and he thought it had only been put there 'to finish off th' alphabet, like, though AMPUS-END ["&"] would ha' done as well, for what he could see.

AMPUTATE, *verb.* (common).—To be off; 'TO CUT (*q.v.*) and run': also to AMPUTATE ONE'S MAHOGANY (or TIMBER). See BUNK and TIMBER-MERCHANT.

AMSTERDAM-WHORE, *subs. phr.* (old).—See quot.

1709. WARD, *Terrafilius*, vi. 28. She has the face of an Angel, the Shape of a Goddess . . . yet . . . she's as False and Perfidious as an AMSTERDAM WHORE.

AMULET (THE), *subs.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*; see MONOSYLLABLE.

AMUSE, *verb.* (Old Cant. and literary).—To cheat, beguile, deceive, [O. E. D. . . . 'Not in regular use before 1600 . . . the usual sense in 17th and 18th centuries']: spec. (B. E. and GROSE), 'to throw dust in one's eyes by diverting one,' 'to fling dust or snuff in the eyes of the person intended to be robbed; also to invent some plausible tale to delude shopkeepers and others, thereby to put them off their guard.' Whence AMUSER = a cheat, a snuff-throwing thief; 'one that deceives' (ASH and GROSE).

1580. CAXTON, *Ovid Metam.*, XII. iii. I never AMUSED my husbonde.

1560. CECIL [STRYPE, *Ann. Ref.*, I liv. 582]. He was secretly employed to AMUSE her.

1583. WHITGIFT [FULLER, *Church Hist.*, ix. 153]. I doubt not but your Lordship will judge those AMUSERS to deserve just punishment.

1673. MARVELL, *Rel. Transf.*, ii. 263. And all to AMUSE men from observing.

1728. DE FOE, *Magic*, I. vii. 190. Tools of the Devil to cheat and AMUSE the world.

1756. BURKE, *Sublime and Beautiful Works*, I. 155. AMUSE and mislead us by false lights.

1775. ASH, *Dict.*, s.v. **AMUSER** . . . one that deceives.

1817. COBBETT, *Year's Resid. Amer.* (1822), 230. It becomes the people of America to guard their minds against ever being, in any case, AMUSED with names.

**ANABAPTIST**, *subs.* (old).—A thief caught in the act and disciplined, at the pump or in the horse-pond (**GROSE**).

**ANCHOR**, *subs.* (old).—See *quot.*

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. **ANCHOR**. Bring your a—se to an ANCHOR, i.e., sit down. To let go an ANCHOR to the windward of the law; to keep within the letter of the law. *Sea Wit*.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, II. iii. 'Hullo, Pet ! . . . BRING YOURSELF TO AN ANCHOR, my man.' The Pet accordingly ANCHORED himself by dropping on to the edge of a chair.

**ANCIENT**. See *ANTIENT*.

**ANCIENT MARINER**, *subs.* *phr.* (Univ. Oxford).—A rowing don.

**ANDREW**, *subs.* (old).—I. A broad-sword; also **ANDREW FERRARA**: cf. **GLADSTONE**. [Cosmo, Andrea, and Gianantonio Ferara, three Italian cutlers of Belluno in Venetia.]

1618. FLETCHER, *Chances*, viii. Here's tough old **ANDREW**.

2. (old).—A body-servant; a valet: cf. **ABIGAIL**.

1698. CONGREVE, *Way of the World*, v. i. I am brought to fine uses, to become a botcher of second-hand marriages between Abigails and **ANDREWS**.

3. (old).—A ship, whether trading or man-of-war: also **ANDREW MILLAR**, and (GROSE) **ANDREW MILLER'S LUGGER**. Among Australian smugglers=a revenue cutter.

1591. HARINGTON, *Orlando Furioso*, xv. 23. Famous **ANDREW D'ORIE**, That to pyrats so much terror breeds [LITTLEDALE].

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *Merchant of Venice*, i. i. 27. But I should think of shallows and of flats, And see my wealthy **ANDREW** dock'd in sand.

See **MERRY-ANDREW**.

**ANDROGYNATION (THE WORK OF)**, *subs.* *phr.* (venery).—Copulation; 'the BEAST with two backs' (q.v.).

**ANGEL**, *subs.* (nursery).—See *quot.* also **FLYING-ANGEL**.

1880. GREENWOOD, *Seaside Insanity [Odd People in Odd Places]*, 45. With the youngest but one . . . bestriding his shoulder . . . his temper is not improved by the knowledge that the cherub to whom he is giving a **FLYING ANGEL** is smearing his Sunday hat with the seaweed with which its little fists are full.

**ANGEL ON HORSEBACK**, *subs.* *phr.* (common).—See *quot.*

1901. GRAND, *Babs the Impossible*, xv. She would especially like a savoury that evening . . . **ANGELS ON HORSEBACK**, now—those delicious little morsels of oysters rolled in bacon, and served on crisp toast, very hot.

**ANGEL ALTOGETHER**, *subs.* *phr.* (West Indian).—A toper. [A *bon-mot* (c. 1876) of a sugar planter on the East Coast, Demerara. A negro, notorious for hard drinking, applied for leave; the manager, suspecting Quashie wanted to go 'on the drink,' bantered him. 'John ! you were drunk on Sunday ?' 'Yes, massa !' 'Monday too ?' 'Yes, massa !' and the question, being repeated for the rest of the week, eliciting similar responses, the 'boss' quietly but pointedly said, 'But, John, you can't be an **ANGEL ALTOGETHER**, you know !' The story got abroad, caught on, and in a short time the whole colony rang with the expression.]

**ANGELIC** (or **ANGELICA**), *subs.* (old). — A young unmarried woman.

1821. **MONCRIEFF**, *Tom and Jerry* [DICK], 5. This cover-me-decently was all very well at Hawthorn Hall, I daresay ; but here, among . . . the **ANGELICS** at Almack's, . . . it would be . . . the index of a complete flat.

**ANGELIFEROUS**, *adj.* (American). — Angelic ; also super-excellent.

1837. **BIRD**, *Nick of the Woods* [BARTLETT]. **ANGELIFEROUS** madam !

**ANGEL'S-FOOD**, *subs. phr.* (old). — Strong ale.

1577. **HARRISON**, *England*, II. xviii. (1877), 295. There is such headie ale and beere . . . commonlie called huffe-capp, the mad dog . . . **ANGEL'S FOOD**, dragons milke.

**ANGEL'S FOOTSTOOL**, *subs. phr.* (American). — An imaginary square sail, topping THE SKY-SCRAPER (*q.v.*), THE MOON-SAIL (*q.v.*), and THE CLOUD-CLEANER (*q.v.*).

**ANGEL'S GEAR**, *subs. phr.* (nautical). — Female attire.

**ANGEL'S OIL**, *subs. phr.* (old). — A bribe : also OIL OF ANGELS. [**ANGEL**=a gold coin, value 6s. 8d., first struck by Ed. IV. in 1465.]

**ANGEL'S SUIT**, *subs. phr.* (obsolete tailors'). — A 'combination' garment for men : the trousers were buttoned to coat and waist-coat made in one.

**ANGEL'S WHISPER**, *subs. phr.* (military). — The call to defaulter's drill : usually extra fatigue duty.

1899. **WYNDHAM**, *Queen's Service*, xxxv. Effective measures are taken to prevent defaulters leaving barracks. . . . All day long, the bugle sounds at unexpected moments the . . . **ANGEL'S WHISPER** . . . when there is some extra fatigue to be performed.

**ANGLE**, *subs.* (venery). — The *penis* : see **PRICK** (ROCHESTER).

**Verb.** (old colloquial). — To get by stratagem ; TO FISH (*q.v.*) ; and (in an absolute sense, see **ANGLER**) to cheat, to steal. As *subs.* = (1) a lure or wile ; (2) a victim : hence a simpleton, one easily imposed on ; and (3) a cunning or specious fellow, an adventurer. To **ANGLE ONE ON** = to lure.

1535. **COVERDALE**, *Bible*, Eccles. vii. 26. A woman is bytterer than death : for she is a very **ANGLE**, her hert is a nett.

1537. **TINDALE**, *Eup. St. John*, 45. He can not . . . hyde the **ANGLE** of his poisoned heresy vnder a bayte of true doctrine.

1586. **SIDNEY** [JAMIESON]. If he shake courteously, he **ANGLED** the people's hearts.

1589. *Pappe with Hatchet*, Pref. 3. I doo but yet **ANGLE** with a silken fyfe, to see whether Martine will nibble.

1598. **SHAKSPEARE**, *I Henry IV*, iv. 3. By this face, This seeming brow of justice did he win The hearts of all that he did **ANGLE** for. *Ibid.* (1601), *All's Well*, v. 3. 212. She did **ANGLE** for me, Madding my eagerness with my restraint.

1601. **JONSON**, *Poetaster*, ii. 1. I'll go presently and **ENGRLE** some broker for a poet's gown.

1653. **WALTON**, *Compleat Angler*, i. You have **ANGLED** me on with much pleasure to the thatched house.

c. 1683. **OLDHAM**, *Works, etc.* (1686), 85. Shooes which . . . **ANGLED** their Charity.

1750. **CHESTERFIELD**, *Letters*, 255. Modesty is the only sure bait when you **ANGLE** for praise.

1799. **SOUTHEY**, *Love Eleg.*, iii. II.

125. The subtile line Wherewith the urchin **ANGLED** for my heart.

1867. DISRAELI [Morn. Star, 12 Feb.]. We are not ANGLING for a policy.

TO ANGLE FOR FARTHINGS, *verb. phr.* (old). *See* quot. 1785.

1700. CONGREVE, *Way of the World*, iii. 6. I hope to see him lodge in Ludgate first, and ANGLE into Blackfriars FOR brass FARTHINGS with an old mitten.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. ANGLER . . . ANGLING FOR FARTHINGS. Begging out of a prison-window with a cap, or box, let down at the end of a long string.

TO ANGLE WITH A SILVER HOOK, *verb. phr.* (common).—1. To bribe; and (2) to buy one's catch in the market.

ANGLER, *subs.* (Old Cant.).—*See* quots. TO ANGLE = to steal; ANGLING-COVE = a FENCE (*q.v.*) (B. E. and GROSE).

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat*, 35. These hokers, or ANGLERS be perylous and most wicked Knaues . . . they customeably carry with them a staffe of v. or vi. foote long, in which within one ynch of the tope thereof, ys a lytle hole . . . in which they putte an yron hoke, and with the same they wyll plucke vnto them quiclye anything that they may reche ther with.

1592. NASH, *Piers Pennilesse*, 28 b. Noble Lord Warden [the devil] of the Wenches and ANGLERS.

1610. ROWLAND, *Martin Mark-all* [Hunt. Club], 8. They are sure to be clyd in the night by the ANGLER, or hooker, or such like pilferers that lie upon the spoyle of other poore people.

1632. DEKKER, *English Villanies*. An ANGLER for duds carries a short staff in his hand, which is called a filch, having in the nab or head of it a ferme (that is to say a hole) into which, upon any piece of service, when he goes a filching, he putteth a hooke of iron, with which hook he angles at a window in the dead of night for shirts, smockes, or any other linen or woollen.

1749. BAMPFYLDE MOORE-CAREW, *Oath of Canting Crew*. No dimber damber, ANGLER, dancer, Prig of cackler, prig of prancer.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. ANGLERS. Pilferers or petty thieves, who, with a stick having a hook at the end, steal goods out of shop windows, grates, etc.: also those who draw in or entice unwary persons to prick at the belt, or such like devices.

c. 1819. *Song of the Young Prig* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1806), 83]. The cleanest ANGLER on the pad.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Arch. Words*, s.v. ANGLER. One who begs in the daytime, observing what he can steal at night.

ANGLOMANIACS, *subs. phr.* (American).—A club in Boston; its members are opposed to every thing British.

ANGRY BOY. *See* BOY and ROARING-BOY.

ANGULAR PARTY, *subs. phr.* (common).—A gathering of people where the number is odd; say three, seven, thirteen, etc.

ANIMAL, *subs.* (old).—1. A term of contempt; 'a fool—he is a meer ANIMAL, he is a very silly Fellow' (B. E., c. 1696).

1677. WYCHERLEY, *Plain Dealer*, III.

2. (American)—A new cadet at the United States Military Academy, West Point; *cf.* SNOOKER.

*See* WHOLE.

ANIMULE, *subs.* (American).—A mule, [A PORTMANTEAU-WORD (*q.v.*) : *i.e.* ANIMAL + MULE.]

1834 (?) *Centre-Pole Bill* [Overland Monthly]. 'Ten miles to town! Waal, stranger, I guess I'll stake out here to-night. Them ANIMULES is too beat to do that.'

ANKLE. TO SPRAIN ONE'S ANKLE, *verb. phr.* (old).—To be got with child (GROSE). Fr., *avoir mal aux genoux*.

**ANKLE-BEATER**, *subs. phr. (old)*.—A boy-drover: they tended their animals with long wattles, and beat them on the legs to avoid spoiling or bruising the flesh. Also **PENNY-BOYS** (*q.v.*): they received one penny per head as remuneration.

**ANKLE-SPRING WAREHOUSE**, *subs. phr. (old)*.—The stocks.

1780. **IRELAND**, *Sixty Years Ago*, 96. 'Kilmainham Minit.' Oh! boys, if de mosey was keeper of de ANKLE-SPRING WAREHOUSE, you cud not help pitying him.

**ANANIAS**, *subs. (common)*.—A liar. Hence **ANANIAS-BRAND**=an imposture; **ANANIAS-CLUB**=an imaginary collection of liars; **TO PLAY ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA** ('thieves')=to keep back part of the swag.

1801. **CAREW**, *Auto. of Gipsy*, 414. He 'cused me o' playin' ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA—pinchin' the regulars as we call it.

1806. **LILLARD**, *Poker Stories*. 'Stories told at the ANANIAS CLUB' [Title of chapter].

**ANNA MARIA**, *subs. phr. (rhyming)*.—A fire.

1802. **MARSHALL**, *The Rusher* [Sporting Times, 29 Oct.] My round-houses I tried to dry, By the ANNA MARIA's heat.

**ANNE**. *See BACON, SIGHT, and THUMB.*

**ANNEX**, *verb. (American)*.—To steal; **TO CONVEY** (*q.v.*).

**ANNO DOMINI SHIP**, *subs. phr. (whaling)*.—An old-fashioned whaler (*Century*).

**ANNUAL**, *subs. (colloquial)*.—A holiday taken once in twelve months: *cf.* **ANNUAL** (*old*)=a mass said, or rent paid, and (*modern*) a book issued, yearly.

**ANODYNE**, *subs. (American thieves')*.

—Death: as *verb*=to kill. Also (Old Cant.), **ANODYNE NECK-LACE** (or **NECKLACE**)=a halter (*GROSE*). *See HORSE-COLLAR, LADDER, and NUBBING-CHEAT.*

[1636. **FLETCHER**, *Bloody Brother*, iii. 2. Speaks of the hangman's halter as a 'necklace.]

1766. **GOLDSMITH**, *Vicar of Wakefield* [Works (Globe), xx. 43]. May I die by an **ANODYNE NECKLACE**, but I'd rather be an underturkey in Newgate.

**ANOINT**, *verb. (old)*.—I. **TO FLATTER** (*q.v.*).

c. 1400. **Rom. Rose**, 1057. These losengeris hem preyse and smylen, And thus the world with word ANOVNTEN.

1483. **CAXTON**, *G. de la Tour*, H v b. More worthe is the frenf whiche prycketh than the flaterynge frenf whiche ENOVNTETH.

2. (*old*).—To bribe; 'to crease the palm' (*q.v.*); to 'creesh the loof.'

1584. **KNOX**, *Hist. of Reformation*, [Works (1846), i. 102]. Yea, the handis of our Lordis so liberallis were ANOYNTE.

3. (*old*).—To beat; to thrash soundly; also, 'to ANOINT with the sap of a hazel rod' (North): *cf.* **STRAP-OIL**. Whence **ANOINTED**=well drubbed (*see* next entry).

c. 1500. **Rom. of Part. (SKEAT)**, 5653. Then they put hym out, the kynge away fly, Which so well was ANOVENTED [Fr. Qui anoint este si bien ong!] indeed, That no slene ne pane had he hole of brede.

1563. **R. B.**, *Appius and Virginia* [DODSEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), iv. 121]. Have at you again: you shall have your ANOINTING.

c. 16[?]. **Roxburghe Ballads**, 'Dumb Maid' [B. M., C. 20, f. 8, 112]. And take you the Oyl of Hazel strong, With it ANOINT her Body round.

1703. **FULLER**, *Bridewell*, ASHTON, Fleet, 211. The whipper began to NOINT me with his instrument, that had . . . about a dozen strings notted at end.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, v. 'I'll bring him to the gangway, and ANOINT him with a cat-and-nine-tails.'

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 139. Broomsticks . . . With which themselves they us'd to switch, And call it 'NOINTING for the itch.'

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. OIL OF GLADNESS. I will ANOINT you with the oil of gladness.

1824. IRVING, *Tales of a Traveller*, II. 287. Seize a trusty staff and ANOINT the back of the aggressor.

**ANOINTED**, *ppl. adj. (old)*.—Pre-eminent in rascality: *see* quot. 1866 and ANOINT, sense 3.

1769. ROBERTSON, *Hist. of Reign of Charles V.* Their ANOINTED malefactors, as they called them, seldom suffered capitally even for the most enormous crimes.

1820. DUNCOMBE, *Flash Dict.*, s.v. ANOINTED. Knowing; ripe for mischief.

1825. SCOTT, *St. Ronan's Well*, xxvi. But, not being Lord Etherington, and an ANOINTED scoundrel into the bargain, I will content myself with cudgelling him to death.

1866. SKEAT [*Notes and Queries*, 3. S. ix. 423]. In a French MS. . . is an account of a man who had received a thorough and severe beating: *Qui anoint est si bien oigné*. The English version [Early English Text Society] translates this, 'which so well was ANOINTED indeed.' From this it is clear that to ANOINT a man was to give him a sound drubbing, and that the word was so used in the fifteenth century. Thus, an ANOINTED rogue means either one who has been well thrashed or who has deserved to be.

1882. SMYTH PALMER, *Folk Etymology*, s.v. ANOINTED . . . without doubt, a corruption of the French *anointé* (ROQUEFORT), another form of *antanti*, brought to nothing, worthless, good for nothing.

**ANONYMA**, *subs. (popular: c. 1860-6)*.—A fashionable whore: *see* TART.

1864. SALA, *Owile Alone*, i. Is that ANONYMA driving twin ponies . . . a parasol attached to her whip, and a groom with folded arms behind her? Bah! there are so many ANONYMAS nowadays. If it isn't the Nameless One herself, it is Synonyma.

1865. OUIDA, *Strathmore*, vi. I'm getting tired of Mondes, one confounds . . . with Demi-monde, and aristocrats that are so near allied to ANONYMA.

1865. *Public Opinion*, 30 Sep. These demi-monde people, ANONYMAS, horse-breakers, hetaire . . . are . . . pushing their way into society.

d. 1868. H. J. BYRON (MSS. Additions to *Slang Dict.* (HOTTER) now in B.M.), Miss —, said to have been the real ANONYMA, died at Paris.

1873. LYTTON, *Kenelm Chillingly*. The carefully sealed envelopes containing letters from fair ANONYMAS.

1881. DORAN, *Drury Lane*, II. 159. ANONYMAS, who dress with such exquisite propriety lest they should be mistaken for modest women.

1889. *Modern Society*, 13 July, 852. Matters are . . . complicated when his mother-in-law mistakes his buxom laundress for a fair ANONYMA.

1900. SAVAGE, *Brought to Bay*, II. Hawtrey piloted the innocent cow-boy out of the evening crowd of ANONYMAS.

**ANOTHER**. *YOU'RE ANOTHER, phr. (old)*. A *tu quoque*: i.e. ANOTHER liar, fool, thief—any imaginable term of abuse.

1534. UDAL, *Roister Doister*, iii. 5. *Roister*. If it were an other but thou, it were a knave. *M. Mery. Ye ARE ANOTHER your selfe, sir, the lorde us both saue.*

1561. PRESTON, *Cambyses* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT)], iv. 220. Thou call'st me knave, THOU ART ANOTHER.

1749. FIELDING, *Tom Jones*, ix. vi. 'I did not mean to abuse the cloth; I only said your conclusion was a non sequitur.' 'YOU ARE ANOTHER,' cries the sergeant, 'an' you come to that; no more a sequitur than yourself.'

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xv. 'Sir,' said Mr. Tupman, 'you're a fellow.' 'Sir,' said Mr. Pickwick, 'YOU'RE ANOTHER.'

1882. *Boston Lit. World*, 3 June 184.  
3. The argument of it is simply, 'YOU'RE ANOTHER,' a retort in dignified manner to . . . British critics.

1888. SIR W. HAROURT, *Speech at Eighty Club*, 21 Feb. Little urchins in the street have a conclusive argument. They say 'YOU'RE ANOTHER.'

See NAIL.

**ANOTHERGUESS** (**ANOTHERGETS**, **ANOTHERGAINES**, **ANOTHERGATES**, **ANOTHERGUISE**, **ANOTHERKINS**), *adj.* (old colloquial). —That is another 'sort,' 'kind,' 'manner,' 'fashion,' etc. [O. E. D. : A phonetic reduction from ANOTHERGETS (for ANOTHERGATES).] Hence ANOTHERGUESS SORT OF MAN (WOMAN, etc.) = one 'up to SNUFF' (q.v.).

1580. SIDNEY, *Arcadia* (1622), 152. If my father had not plaid the hasty foole I might have had ANOTHER-GAINES husband than Dametas.

1594. LIVY, *Mother Bombie*, i. Bringing up ANOTHER-GATES marriage.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Twelfth Night*, v. 1. He would have tickled you OTHER GATES than he did.

1625. HOWELL, *Letters*, i. ix. 4. I wish you ANOTHERGETS wife than Socrates had.

1631. SAUNDERSON, 21 *Sermons*, i. 7. That, I ween, is ANOTHER-GATES matter.

1655. *Comical Hist. of Francion*. I am constrained to make ANOTHER GUESSE diversion.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, i. 3. 428. Hudibras about to enter UPON ANOTHER GATES adventure.

1664. FLECKNOE, *Love's Kingdom*. I co'd make OTHERGESS musick with them.

1682. DURFEE, *Madame Tickle*. He has been a student in the temple these three years; ANOTHER GUESS SORT OF MAN, I assure you.

1690. SHADWELL, *Amorous Bigot*, iii. 268. She has made ANOTHER GUESSE choice.

1690. DRYDEN, *Amphitryon*, iii. The truth on't is, she's ANOTHERGHESS Morsel than old Bromia.

1727. ARBUTHNOT, *John Bull*, 92. It used to go ANOTHER-GUISE manner in my time.

1762. FOOTE, *Orators*, iii. (1767), 61. This is ANOTHERGUESS matter.

1764. WALPOLE, *Otranto*, ii. My lady Isabella is of ANOTHERGUESS mould than you take her for.

1766. COLMAN, *Clandestine Marriage*. This is quite ANOTHER-GUESS sort of a place than it was when I first took it, my lord.

1837. HOOK, *Jack Bragg*, 196. He was, as they say, quite ANOTHER GUESS SORT OF MAN from what he had been.

1837. MRS. PALMER, *Devonshire Courtship*, 12. Her's ANOTHER GESS 'OMAN than Dame.

1844. *Tales by a Barrister*, ii. 353. You bean't given to walking of a morning — more's the pity — you would be ANOTHER GUESS SORT OF A MAN if you were.

1868. BROWNING, *Ring and Book*, iv. 1498. ANOTHERGUESS tribunal than ours here.

1870. *Argosy*, Dec. 447. Wolfe Barrington came. Quite ANOTHER GUESS SORT OF PUPIL.

**ANOTHER PLACE**, *subs. phr.* (Parliamentary). — The House of Commons.

1883. LORD GRANVILLE, *Speech*, 18 June. I hear that question is to be asked in ANOTHER PLACE by Mr. Warton.

**ANSER.** ANSER IS LATIN FOR GOOSE (BRANDY, CANDLE, FISH, etc.), *phr.* (old). — A punning catch or retort.

1612. CHAPMAN, *Widow's Tears*, ii. 4. *Tha.* I would make your lordship an ANSWER. *Arg.* ANSER'S LATIN FOR A GOOSE, an't please your honour. *Ex.* Well noted, gander, and what of that? *Arg.* Nothing . . . but that he said he would make his lordship an ANSWER.

1738. SWIFT, *Polite Conversation*, ii. Lord Sm. Tom, can you tell me WHAT'S LATIN FOR A GOOSE? *Nev.* O my lord, I know that; why, BRANDY IS LATIN FOR A GOOSE, and TACE IS LATIN FOR A CANDLE.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. TACE . . . TACE IS LATIN FOR A CANDLE; a jocular admonition to be silent on any subject.

1835. MARRYAT, *Jacob Faithful*, xi. 'Art thou forward in thy learning? Canst thou tell me **LATIN FOR GOOSE**?' 'To be sure,' replied Tom, 'BRANDY.'

1851. MAYHEW, *London Lab.*, i. 125. The thirst and uneasy feeling . . . frequently experienced after . . . the richer species of fish, have led to the employment of spirit to this kind of food. Hence, says Dr. Pereira, the vulgar proverb, BRANDY is **LATIN FOR FISH**.

1868. BREWER, *Phrase and Fable*, s.v. BRANDY. **WHAT IS THE LATIN FOR GOOSE?** (ANSWER) BRANDY. The pun is on the word ANSWER. ANSWER IS THE **LATIN FOR GOOSE** which brandy follows as surely and quickly as an ANSWER follows a question.

**ANSHUM-SCRANCHUM**, *subs. phr.* (provincial).—A scramble: *e.g.* when provision is scanty, and each one is almost obliged to scramble for what he can get, it is said to be **anshum-scranchum** work (HALLIWELL).

**AN'T (AINT)** (colloquial or vulgar).—A contraction for 'are not'; 'am not'; is not; has not; have not (HAN'T): chiefly Cockney; *cf.* shan't, won't, can't. *See AIN'T.* Also = 'and may it.'

1612. CHAPMAN, *Widow's Tears*, ii. 4. AN'T please your honour.

1706. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.* i. i. 24. But if your Eyes A'NT quick of Motion.

1734. FIELDING, *Old Man*, 1007. i. Ha, ha, ha! A'NT we? no!

1778. BURNAY, *Evelina*, i. xxi. 87. Those you are engaged to AIN'T half so near related.

1812. SMITH, *Rejected Addresses*, 69. No, that A'NT it, says he.

1828. LYTTON, *Pelham*, xlii. A'NT we behind-hand?

1829. [LAMB, *Life and Letters* (1860), i. 348.] A'NT you glad about Burk's case?

1864. TENNYSON, *Northern Farmer*, xiii. Joânes, as 'ANT a 'âpoth o' sense.

1865. DICKENS, *Mutual Friend*, iii. 12. She AIN'T half bad.

**ANT.** **IN AN ANT'S FOOT**, *phr.* (provincial).—In a short time.

**ANTAGONIZE**, *verb.* (American colloquial).—To oppose a ball, bill, measure, etc. [Properly, only of contention or opposition between forces or things of the same kind.]

1882. *Boston Evening Transcript*, 4, 3. Windom did not hesitate openly to **ANTAGONISE** . . . Sherman's bill. *Ibid.* A determination to **ANTAGONISE** this and all other bills.

**ANTARCTIC**, *verb.* (old).—To go to the opposite extreme: *cf.* 'to lord,' 'to tree,' etc.

1647. WARD, *Simp. Cobler*, 47. If it [Majestas Imperii] extends itself beyond its due Artique . . . *Salus Populi* must ANTARTIQUE IT, or else the world will be Excentrick.

**ANTECHAMBER** (or **ROOM**), *subs.* (B. E., c. 1696).—'Forerooms for receiving of Visits, as the back and Drawing-rooms are for Lodgings, anciently called Dining-rooms.' [Not in use in this sense until 18th century, the earliest reference in O.E.D. being 1767: the orig. meaning = the room admitting to the royal bedchamber.]

**ANTEM.** *See AUTEM.*

**ANTHONY.** **TO KNOCK ANTHONY**, *verb. phr.* (old).—I. To walk knock-kneed; TO CUFF JONAS (*q.v.*). Hence **ANTHONY CUFFIN** = a knock-kneed man. Also (2) to keep warm by beating one's sides: *see BEATING THE BOOBY (GROSE).*

**ANTHONY** (or **TANTONY PIG**), *subs.* (old).—*See SAINT* and **TANTONY**, adding *quots. infra.*

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, 'London,' ii. 56. He will follow him like a St. ANTHONY'S PIG. St. Anthony is notoriously known for the Patron of hogs, having a Pig for his Page in all pictures. . . . There was a fair Hospital built to the honour of St. Anthony in Bennet's Fink in the City; the Protectors and Proctors whereof claimed a priviledge to themselves to garble the live Pigs in the Markets of the City; and such as they found starved, or otherwise unwholesome for man's sustenance, they would slit in the ear, tie a bell about their necks, and let them loose about the City. None durst hurt or take them up (having this Livery of St. Anthony upon them); but many would give them bread, and feed them in their passage, whom they used to follow, whining after them.

1787. GROSE, *Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*. The favourite or smallest pig in the litter; to follow like a TANTONY PIG, i.e., ST. ANTHONY'S PIG, signified to follow close at one's heels.

ST. ANTHONY'S FIRE, *subs. phr.* (old).—See quoats.

1527. ANDREW, *Brunswyck's Distyll. Waters*, A ii. Sorell water slaketh ST. ANTHONY'S FYRE.

1607. TOPSELL, *Serpents*, 815. The disease called Erisipelas, commonly called ST. ANTHONIES FIRE.

1834. *Penny Cycl.*, II. 96. 2. The cure of the distemper called the sacred fire, since that time called ST. ANTHONY'S FIRE.

1868. BREWER, *Phrase and Fable*, s.v. From the tradition that those who sought the intercession of ST. ANTHONY recovered from the pestilential erysipelas called the sacred fire which proved extremely fatal in 1089.

ANTIDOTE, *subs. (B. E.)*.—'A very homely Woman.'

ANTIENT, *subs. (B. E.)*.—'At sea, for Ensign or Flag,' [O.E.D. : 'a corruption of 'Ensign,' confounded with *ancien*.'] Cf. ANCIENT Pistol, Othello's ANCIENT (i.e. standard-bearers).

ANTIMONY, *subs. (printers')*.—Type. [ANTIMONY is a constituent part.]

ANTIPODES, *subs. (venery)*.—The female privity: *see MONOSYLLABLE*.

ANTRUMS. *See TANTRUM*.

ANVIL. ON THE ANVIL, *phr.* (old colloquial).—In preparation; in hand; 'on the stocks'; and (the usual modern equivalent) '[an iron] in the fire.' Hence TO ANVIL = to fashion, to prepare.

1607. DEKKER, *Whore of Babylon*, F. iii. Whilst our thunderbolts ARE ANVILING abroad.

1612. CHAPMAN, *Widow's Tears*, ii. i. You know, brother, I have other irons ON THE ANVIL.

c. 1623. FLETCHER, *Lover's Progress*, iv. Armour, ANVILLED in the shop Of passive fortitude.

1623. HOWELL, *Letters* (1650), II. 29. Matters while they are in agitation and UPON THE ANVIL.

c. 1674. CLARENCEON, *Hist. Rebellion*, I. ii. 110. The Earl of Strafford . . . whose destruction was then UPON THE ANVIL.

c. 1700. *Gentleman Instructed*, 303. You are now ANVILLING out some Petty Revenge.

1748. RICHARDSON, *Clarissa*, VIII. 267. A roguery . . . ready ANVILLED and hammered for execution.

1785. BURKE, *Nabob of Arcot* [Works (1842), I. 310]. He has now ON THE ANVIL another scheme.

ANVIL - BEATER (-THRESHER, -WHACKER, etc.), *subs. phr.* (old).—A smith.

1677. CLEVELAND, *Poems*, 'Ded.' Venus is again unequally yoaked with a Sooty ANVILE-BEATER.

ANY. ANY OTHER MAN, *phr.* (American).—A call to order: addressed to a prosy or a discursive speaker, or when from lack of continuity in thought the same idea is repeated in synonymous terms.

**I'M NOT TAKING ANY**, *phr.* (colloquial).—A more or less sarcastic refusal ; ‘Not for Joe.’

**ANYBODY**, *subs.* (colloquial).—An ordinary individual : in depreciation ; *cf.* NOBODY, SOMEBODY, etc.

1826. DISRAELI, *Vivian Grey*, II. xv. 78. Everybody was there who is ANYBODY.

1858. BRIGHT, *Speeches*, 306. Two or three ANYBODIES.

**ANYHOW**. ALL ANYHOW, *adv.* *phr.* Carelessly ; at random.

1902. *Free Lance*, 11 Oct., 44. 2. I have seen these particular waistcoats made ‘ALL ANYHOW’ as regards the matching of the stripe line.

**ANYHOW YOU CAN FIX IT**, *phr.* (American).—A form of acquiescence : *e.g.*, ‘I don’t know if you’ll succeed, but ANYHOW YOU CAN FIX IT.’

**ANY-RACKET**, *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—A penny faggot.

**ANYTHING**. LIKE (or AS) ANYTHING, *adv. phr.* (colloquial).—An indefinite but comprehensive standard of measurement or value ; LIKE ONE O’CLOCK (OLD BOOTS, WINKING, HELL, etc.).

1542. UDAL, *Erasmus’ Apoph.*, 32. The same maiden . . . daunced without any feare . . . emong Swardes and Knives . . . as sharpe AS ANYTHING.

1740. RICHARDSON, *Pamela*, II. 57. I fear your girl will grow as proud AS ANYTHING.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, II. 135. His bosom throb’d with agony, he cried LIKE ANYTHING.

1873. CARROLL, *Through Looking-Glass*, IV. 73. They wept LIKE ANYTHING to see Such quantities of sand.

**ANYTHINGARIAN**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—An indifferentist ; a JACK - OF - BOTH - SIDES. Hence ANYTHINGARIANISM = the creed of ‘all things to all men.’

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, III. 97. Bifarious ANYTHINGARIANS, that always make their interest the standard of their religion.

1709. WARD, *Terrafilius*, I. 23. Wonderful Benefit the Wavering Anythingarean has at last reap’d by his long Inquiry.

1717. ENTERTAINER, 6 Nov. [Notes and Queries, 7 S. vi. 66]. Nor, which is ten times worse, Free-thinkers, Atheists, ANYTHINGARIANS.

1718-10. SWIFT, *Pol. Conv.*, I. *Lady Sm.* What religion is he of? *Ld. Sp.* Why, he is an ANYTHINGARIAN. *Lady Ans.* I believe he has his religion to chuse.

1850. KINGSLY, *Alton Locke*, xxii. They made puir Robbie Burns an ANYTHINGARIAN with their blethers. *Ibid.* (1851), *Life*, I. 215. A tone of feeling very common, and which finds its vent in modern Neo-Platonism—ANYTHINGARIANISM.

**ANYWHERE**. ANYWHERE DOWN THERE ! (tailors’). A workroom catch-phrase on the falling of anything to the floor.

**APART**, *adv.* (old colloquial [B. E., c. 1699] : now recognised).—‘Apart, severally, asunder. [Except for the anticipation by Langland (see quot. 1399) not in use till long after B. E.’s time.]

1399. LANGLAND, *Rich. Redeless*, iv. 36. Comliche a clerk than pronounicid þe poynits APARTE to hem alle.

1728. NEWTON, *Chronol. Amend.*, I. 177. The spartans lived in villages APART. [O. E. D. : the first quot. in this sense.]

**APARTMENTS**. APARTMENTS TO LET, *phr.* (common).—I. Empty-headed ; foolish ; crazy : see BALMY.

2. (old).—Said of a widow; also of a woman given to prostitution: *e.g.*, ‘She lets out her fore room and lies backward’ (RAY and GROSE).

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 191. A theatrical lady . . . may change her lover as often as her petticoat . . . and . . . rivals came back in crowds . . . ready to bargain on the mere report of my being to LET.

**APE**, *subs.* (old).—1. An antic; a gull. Hence GOD’S-APE = a natural fool; TO PLAY THE APE = (1) to mimic; and (2) to play the fool; TO PUT AN APE INTO ONE’S HOOD (CAP, or HAND) = to befool, to dupe: also TO MAKE ONE HIS APE. As *adj.* (or APISH) = foolish: hence APE-DRUNK = maudlin; APE-WARE = counterfeit ware.

c. 1230. *Ancre. R.*, 248. Ne mei he buten scheawe þe uorȝ sumwhat of his APEWARE.

1370. WYCLIF, *Works* (1879), 412. Many sich APE resounis han men herd aȝenus crist.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, ‘Prioresses Prol.’ Aha, felowes, beth ware of swiche a jape, The monk PUT in THE MANNES HODE AN APE. *Ibid.*, *Miller’s Tale*, 203. Thus she maketh Absolon his APE.

c. 1508. *Colyn Blawbol’s Testament*, 280. Such as wilbe as DRONGEN as an APE.

1509. BARCLAY, *Ship of Fools* (1570), 33. Some are APE DRONKE, full of laughter and of toyes, Some mery dronke.

1513. DOUGLAS, *Aeneis*, iv., Prol. 21. sour trew seruandis silly GODDIS APIS.

1532. MORE, *Confut. Barnes*, viii. Thys felowes folishe APISHNESSE and al hys asseched exclamacions.

1579. TOMSON, *Calvin’s Serm. Tim.*, 343. 1. He PLAYETH THE APE, and counterfeteth what God hath ordeined for our salvation.

1596. SPENSER, *Fairy Queen*, III. ix. 31. Two eies him needeth for to watch and wake, Whom lovers will deceive. Thus was THE APE By their faire handling PUT INTO MALEBECCOES CAPE.

1600. SHAKSPEARE, *Much Ado*, v. 1. Boys, APES, braggarts, Jacks, milksops. *Ibid.* (1611), *Cymb.*, iv. 2 194. Jollity for APES and grief for boys.

1634. WITHALS, *Dict.* It is hard MAKING A HORNE OF AN APES TAYLE.

1648. Pet. *Eastern Ass*, 23. Them-selves may . . . PLAY THE APES in Pulpits.

1741. RICHARDSON, *Pamela*, I. 154. That she should instigate the titled APE her husband to write to me.

1884. HENLEV and STEVENSON, *Deacon Brodie*, II. 3. He was my APE, my tool.

2. (old). — An endearment (MALONE): *cf.* MONKEY.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, II. I. 16. The APE is dead, and I must conjure him.

3. (Stock Exchange). — In pl. = Atlantic and North-western First Mortgage Bonds.

1871. ATKIN, *House Scraps*. If anything tickles our fancy, We buy them—“Brums,” “Caleys,” or “APES.”

TO LEAD APES IN HELL, *verb. phr.* (old).—To die unmarried: of both sexes. Hence APE-LEADER = an old maid, or bachelor (GROSE).

1579. LVLY, *Euphues* (ARBER), 87. Rather thou shouldest leade a lyfe to thine owne lyking in earthe, than . . . LEADE APES IN HELL.

1577. STANIHURST, *Desc. Ireland*, ii. He seemed to stand in no better steede than TO LEAD APES IN HELL.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Taming of Shrew*, II. I. 34. She is your treasure . . . I must . . . for your love to her, LEAD APES IN HELL.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. *Mammola*, an old maid or sillie virgin that will LEAD APES IN HELL.

1605. *London Prodigal*, I. 2. But ‘tis an old proverb, and you know it well, That women, dying maids, LEAD APES IN HELL.

1611. CHAPMAN, *Mayday*, v. 2. I am beholding to her; she was loth to have me LEAD APES IN HELL.

1648. BRATHWAVTE, *Bessy Bell*, iii. To LEAD APES IN HELL, it will not do well, 'Tis an Enemy to Procreation.

1651. BROME, *Jovial Crew*, ii. 372. I will rather hazard my being one of the Devil's APE-LEADERS than to marry while he is melancholly.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Poetic Conversation*, i. Col. Faith, you'll never LEAD APES IN HELL. *Nev.* No, no, I'll be sworn Miss has not an inch of Nun's Flesh about her.

1710. DUKE, *Poems* [CHALMERS, *Eng. Poets*, ix. 233]. Compard to all the plagues in marriage dwell, It were pre-ferment to LEAD APES IN HELL.

1717. CENTLIVRE, *Bold Stroke*, ii. 1. Poor girl; she must certainly LEAD APES, as the saying is.

c. 1727. RAMSAV, *Bonny Tweedmouth* [*Works*, ii. 245]. To Edinburgh go, Where she that is bonny May catch her a Johnny, And never LEAD APES BELOW.

1763. DODSLEY, *Poems*, vi. 216. Poor Gratia in her twentieth year, Fore-seeing future woe, Chose to ATTEND a monkey here Before AN APE BELOW.

c. 1800. DIBDEN, *Song*, 'Tack and Tack.' At length cried she, 'I'll marry; what should I tarry for? I may LEAD APES IN HELL for ever.'

1830. GENERAL P. THOMPSON, *Exerc.* (1842), i. 198. Joining with other old women, in LEADING their APES IN TAR-TARUS.

TO SAY AN APE'S PATER-NOSTER, *verb. phr.* (old).—To chatter with cold. Fr. *dire des patenôtres de singe*.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Gre-lotter*. To shake, tremble, SAV AN APE'S PATERNOSTER.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. xi. He would flay the FOX, SAV THE APE'S PATERNOSTER.

PHRASES. 'The APE clasbeth her young so long that at last she killeth them'; 'An APE is an APE, a varlet's a varlet, Though they be clad in silk or scarlet'; 'The higher the APE goes, the more he shows his tail.'

A-PER-SE. *See A.*

APHRODISIAN - DAME, *subs. phr.* (literary). — A courtesan: *see TART*.

1861. READE, *Cloister and Hearth*, li. They showed me the state nursery for the children of those APHRODISIAN DAMES, their favourites.

A-PIGGA-BACK (or A-PISTY-POLL). *See ANGEL and PICK-A-BACK.*

APOSTLES (or TWELVE APOSTLES), *subs. phr.* (Cambridge Univ.).—Formerly when the Poll, or ordinary B.A. degree list, was arranged in order of merit, the last twelve were nicknamed THE TWELVE APOSTLES; also THE CHOSEN TWELVE, and the last, ST. POLL or ST. PAUL—a punning allusion to 1 Cor. xv. 9, 'For I am the least of the Apostles, that am not meet to be called an Apostle.' The list is now arranged alphabetically and in classes. At Columbia College, D.C., the last twelve on the B.A. list actually receive the personal names of the Apostles.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. APOSTLES (Cambridge). Men who are plucked, refused their degree.

1795. *Gent. Mag.*, Jan., 19. [The last twelve names on the Cambridge list are here called THE TWELVE APOSTLES.]

1823. *Gradus ad Cantab.* The APOSTLES are the clodhoppers of literature, who have at last scrambled through the Senate House without being plucked, and have obtained the title of B.A. by a miracle. The last twelve names on the list of Bachelor of Arts—those a degree lower than the *οἱ πόλλοι*—are thus designated.

TO MANCEUVRE THE APOSTLES, *verb. phr.* (old).—To borrow of one to pay another; to rob Peter to pay Paul (GROSE).

**APPOSTLE'S GROVE**, *subs.* (common).—St. John's Wood; also THE GROVE OF THE EVANGELIST.

**APOTHECARY**, *subs.* (old).—Formerly a term of contempt: prior to 1617 the business of grocer and chemist was combined, and it was not till 1815 that the status of an apothecary, as a medical practitioner, was legally held by licence and examination of the APOTHECARIES Company. Hence TO TALK LIKE AN APOTHECARY, *verb. phr.* (old).—To talk nonsense; 'to use (GROSE) hard or gallipot words: from the assumed gravity and affectation of knowledge generally put on by the gentlemen of this profession who are commonly as superficial in their learning as they are pedantic in their language.' Also APOTHECARIES'—LATIN = gibberish, DOG- (KITCHEN-, or RAW-) Latin (*q. v.*); APOTHECARIES'—BILL = a long undetailed account: *cf.* BAWDY-HOUSE RECKONING. Likewise PROVERBIAL SAYINGS: 'A broken APOTHECARY, a new doctor'; 'APOTHECARIES would not give pills in sugar unless they were bitter.'

**APPY (THE)**, *subs.* (Durham University: obsolete)—The Three Tuns: a celebrated Durham Inn. [A mis-reading of Acts xxviii. 15.]

**APPLE**, *subs.* (venery).—In *pl.* = a woman's paps: also APPLE-DUMPLING SHOP (GROSE) = the bosom: *see DAIRIES*.

*d. 1638.* CAREW, *The Rapture*. The warm firm APPLE, tipp'd with coral berries.

PHRASES and PROVERBIAL EXPRESSIONS. 'One rotten APPLE decays a bushel'; 'To take an eye for an APPLE'; 'As

like as an APPLE is like an oyster'; 'There's small choice in rotten APPLES'; 'Won with an APPLE, lost with a nut'; 'How we APPLES swim' (= 'What a good time we're having'; a reference to the fable of a posse of horse-turds floating down the river with a company of apples).

*1549.* Ayenbite, 295. A roted APPLE amang þe holen, makeþ rotie þe yzounde.

*1532.* MORE, *Confut. Tindale* [Works, 689. 1]. Let him take MINE VIE FOR AN APPLE, if . . .

*1579.* FULKE, *Heskin's Parl.*, 241. Your argument is AS LIKE, AS AN APPLE IS LIKE AN OYSTER.

*1596.* SHAKSPEARE, *Taming Shrew*, i. 1. 139. Faith, as you say, there's small choice in rotten APPLES.

*1623.* SANDERSON, *Sermons* [Works (1683) i. 195]. Of a wavering and fickle mind; as we say of children: WON WITH AN APPLE, and LOST WITH A NUT.

*1672.* RAY, *Proverbs*. See HOW WE APPLES SWIM, quothe the horse-turd.

*1860.* *Cornhill Mag.*, Dec. 737. While tumbling down the turbid stream, Lord, love us, HOW WE APPLES SWIM.

*1873.* IRELAND and NICHOLS, *Hogarth*, iii. 29. He assumes a consequential air, sets his arms akimbo, and strutting among the historical artists cries, 'HOW WE APPLES SWIM.'

*See ADAM'S APPLE.*

**APPLE-CART**, *subs. phr.* (common).

—The human body; *cf.* BEER-BARREL. To UPSET ONE'S APPLE-CART = to floor a man; to thwart (GROSE). Also TO UPSET THE OLD WOMAN'S APPLE-CART; TO UPSET THE APPLE-CART AND SPILL THE GOOSEBERRIES (or PEACHES).

**APPLE-PIE BED**, *subs. phr.* (old).

—'A bed made apple-pie fashion, like what is called a turnover apple-pie, where the sheets are so doubled as to prevent any one from getting at his length between

them: a common trick played by frolicsome country lasses on their sweethearts, male relations, or visitors' (GROSE). Fr. *lit en portefeuille*.

1811. SHARPE [*Correspondence* (1888), i. 466]. After squeezing myself up, and making a sort of APPLE-PIE BED with the beginning of my sheet.

1883. *Sat. Review*, 3 Nov. 566, 2. Some 'evil-disposed persons' have already visited his room, MADE HIS BED INTO AN APPLE-PIE, plentifully strewn with hair-brushes and razors.

**APPLE-PIE DAY**, *subs. phr.* (obsolete, Winchester Coll.)—The day on which SIX-AND-SIX (*q.v.*) was played. It was the Thursday after the first Tuesday in December. So called because hot APPLE-PIES were served on GOMERS (*q.v.*) in College for dinner.

**APPLE-PIE ORDER**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—The perfection of neatness and exactness.

1813. SCOTT [*LOCKHART, Life*, iv. (1839), 131]. The children's garden is in APPLE PIE ORDER.

1835. MARRVAT, *J. Faithful*, viii. 29. Put the craft a little into APPLE PIE ORDER.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'Old Woman in Grey.' I am just in the ORDER which some folks—though why, I am sure, I can't tell you—would call APPLE-PIE.

**APPLES-AND-PEARS**, *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—A flight of stairs.

**APPLE SQUIRE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. A harlot's convenience. Hence (2) a kept-gallant (*see SQUIRE, BULLY, and FANCY-MAN*); (3) a WITTOL (*q.v.*); and (4) a PIMP (*q.v.*). Also PIPPIN-SQUIRE, SQUIRE OF THE BODY, APPLE-JOHN, APPLE-MONGER, APRON-MAN, and APRON-SQUIRE, APPLE-WIFE=bawd. In quot. 1636 APRON-SQUIRE=groomsman.

c. 1500. COPLAND, *Hye-way to Spittelhouse* [HAZLITT, *Early Poet. Poet.*, iv. 60], 832. APPLE-SQUERS, entyfers, and ravysshers, These to our place have dayly herbegers.

[?]. *MS. Bodl.*, 30. Such stuffe the divell did not tast, only one little hellhound, a crone of myne, and one of St. George's APPLESQUIRES.

15 [?]. . . . [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), ix. 162]. Together with mylady's, my fortune fell, and of her gentleman usher I became her APPLE SQUIRE, to hold the door and keep sentinel at taverns.

1573. BULLIEN, *Dialogue*, 8. His little lackey, a proper yong APPLESQUIRE, called Pandarus, whiche carrieth the keye of his chamber with hym.

1593. NASH, *Christ's Teares*, 83 b. They will . . . play the Brokers, Baudes, APRON-SQUIRES, Pandars, or anything.

1596. JONSON, *Every Man in Humour*, iv. 10. And you, young APPLESQUIRE, and old cuckold maker. *Ibid.* (1599), *Every Man Out of His Humour*, iv. 6. *Shift*. As I am APPLES JOHN, I am to go before the cockatrice you saw this morning. *Ibid.*, 'Characters—Shift. His chief exercises are . . . SQUIRING a cockatrice, and making privy searches for imparters. *Ibid.* (1614), *Bartholomew Fair*, i. 1. *Lit.* A fool-John, she calls me; do you mark that, gentlemen? . . . *Quar.* She may call you an APPLES JOHN, if you use this.

1598. FLORIO, *World of Wordes*, s.v. *Cuadro*.

1599. HALL, *Satires*, i. 2. Each bush, each bank, and each base APPLESQUIRE Can serve to sate their beastly lewd desire.

1599. *Waring Faire Women*, ii. 1158. Trusty Roger, her base APPLESQUIRE.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Cueiller*.

1622. MARMION, *Holland's Leaguer*, iv. 3. Is your niece a leaguer, a suttler, Or laundress to this fort? . . . You are an APPLESQUIRE, a rat, and a ferret.

1623. TAYLOR, *Discovery by Sea*, ii. 21. Are whoremasters dea'd, are bawds all dead, Are panders, pimps, and APPLESQUIRES all fied? *Ibid.* (*Works*, 1630), Lord, who would take him for a PIPPIN SQUIRE, That's so bedaub'd with lace and rich attire?

1636. DAVENANT, *Platonic Lovers*, iv. A dozen AFROW SQUIRES tunclooth the husband . . . and lay him on his pillow. Tamely to expect the bride two hours before she came.

1675. COTTON, *Burlesque on Burlesque*, 218. And even of stocks and stones enquire Of Atys, her small APPLE-SQUIRE.

1738. HERRICK, *Poor Robin* . . . Little truth will be found amongst . . . pimps, pandars, and APPLE-SQUIRES; only the pimp pretends to something more of truth than the other, for if he promise to help you to a whore, he will be sure that she shall not be an honest woman.

**APPROACH**, *verb.* (euphemistic).—To possess a woman: *see RIDE*. Hence APPROACHABLE = willing, RIPE (*q.v.*), COMING (*q.v.*).

1611. *Bible*, Lev. xviii. 6. None of you shall APPROACH to any that is near of kin to him.

1798. COLEBROOKE, *Digest Hind. Law* (1801), III. 196. If either brother . . . APPROACH the wife he is degraded.

**APRIL**. This month the poetical type of verdure (*see GREEN*) and inconstancy is frequently found in contemptuous combination. Thus APRIL-FOOL (or Scots APRIL - GOWK = cuckoo: Fr. *poisson d'Avril*) = one who is sent on a sleeveless errand (for 'strap - oil,' 'pigeon's milk,' 'the squad umbrella,' 'the diary of Eve's grandmother,' etc.), or who is the victim of asinine sport on APRIL-FOOLS' (or ALL FOOLS') DAY (1st April). This has given rise to the sarcastic APRIL-DAY = a wedding day; and APRIL-GENTLEMAN = a newly-married husband. Also APRIL - FISH = a pimp (Fr. *maquereau*); APRIL-SQUIRE = a new-made or upstart squire.

1592. GREENE, *Upstart Courtier* [Harr. Misc., II. 247]. Two pert APRIL ESQUIRES; the one had a murrey cloth gowne on. *Ibid.* (1671), i. That time when the cuckold' chorister began to beuray APRIL GENTLEMEN with his never-changed notes.

1687. CONGREVE, *Old Bachelor*, i. 4. That's one of Love's APRIL-FOOLS, is always upon some errand that's to no purpose.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xxx. In the days of yore, two sorts . . . used to abound in our courts of judicature, and rotted the bodies and tormented the souls of those who were at law . . . your APRIL FISH . . . your beneficial remoras.

c. 1710-12. ADDISON, *Spectator* [WALSH]. The whole family . . . made APRIL FOOLS . . . my landlady herself did not escape him.

[1713. SWIFT, *Jour. to Stella*, 31 Mar. Dr. Arbuthnot and Lady Masham spent an amusing evening in contriving a lie for the morrow.]

1728. HERRICK, *Poor Robin*. No sooner doth ST. ALL-FOOL's morn approach But waggs . . . assemble to employ their sense in sending fools to get intelligence.

1760. *London Public Advertiser*, 13 Mar. The APRIL FOOL custom arose from the . . .

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 395. We're sent by our wise-looking owls Only to make us APRIL FOOLS.

1777. BRAND, *Pop. Antiq.*, 400. We in the North call Persons who are thus deceived APRIL-COWKS.

c. 1830. THOMPSON, *Exerc.* (1842), IV. 518. It will be difficult to make APRIL-FOOLS of a whole people that can read and write.

1892. WALSH, *Pop. Customs*, 59. In character though not in point of time ALL FOOLS' Day corresponds with the Roman Saturnalia . . . with the mediæval Feast of Fools . . . and the Feast of Holi in Hindostan.

**TO SMELL OF APRIL AND MAY**, *verb. phr.* (old).—A simile of youth and courtship.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, iii. 2. 67. What say you to young Master Fenton? . . . he SMELLS APRIL AND MAY.

Also PROVERBIAL SAYINGS: 'A windy March and a rainy APRIL make a beautiful May'; 'APRIL showers bring forth May flowers'; 'When APRIL blows his horn it's good for hay and

corn'; 'APRIL cling good for nothing'; 'APRIL — borrows three days of March, and they are ill'; 'A cold APRIL the barn will fill'; 'An APRIL flood carries away the frog and her brood'; 'APRIL and May are the keys of the year.'

**APRON**, *subs. (old)*.—1. A woman: generic: *cf.* MUSLIN; PETTICOAT; PLACKET, etc. Hence TIED TO ONE'S APRON STRINGS (or APRON-LED)=(1) under petticoat-rule, hen-pecked; and (2) in close attendance: APRON-HOLD (or APRON-STRING HOLD, or TENURE)=a life interest in a wife's estate (GROSE); APRON-SQUIRE (*see* APPLE-SQUIRE); APRON-HUSBAND = a domestic meddler; APRON-UP=pregnant, LUMPY (*q.v.*). Also (proverbial): 'Wise as her mother's APRON-STRINGS' = dependent on a mother's bidding.

1542. UDAL, *Erasmus' Apoth.*, II. 8. We say in English, As wise as a gooce, or as WISE AS HER MOTHER'S APEREN STRING.

1611. DEKKER, *Roaring Girl* [Works (1673), 177]. I cannot abide these APERNE HUSBANDS: such cotqueans.

1647. WARD, *Simp. Cobler*, 67. APRON-STRING TENURE is very weak.

1712. ADDISON, *Spectator*, No. 506. The fair sex . . . heartily despise one, who . . . is always HANGING AT THEIR APRON-STRINGS.

1744. ELLIS, *Modern Husbandman*, VI. II. 118. [He] being possessed of a house and large orchard by APRON-STRING HOLD, felled almost all his fruit trees, because he every day expected the death of his sick wife.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, IV. 23. He cursed the APRON-STRING TENURE, by which he said he held his peace.

1804. MRS. BARBAULD, *Richardson*, I. 160. All her fortune in her own power — a very APRON-STRING TENURE.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 40. An old devotee, who . . . always keeps her servant AT HER APRON-STRING.

1834. EDGEWORTH, *Helen*, viii. From the moment he SLIPPED HIS MOTHER'S APRON-STRINGS, [he] had fallen into folly.

1849. MACAULAY, *History of England*, II. 649. He could not submit to be TIED TO THE APRON-STRINGS even of the best of wives.

2. (old). — Generic for one wearing an APRON: *e.g.* a shop-keeper, a waiter, a workman: also APRON-MAN, APRON-ROGUE, APRONEER. [Spec. the Parliamentary party (many of whom were of humble origin) during the Civil War: by Cavaliers in contempt]. Hence (3)=a cleric of rank, a bishop or dean (also APRON-AND-GAITERS). As *verb.* (colloquial)=to cover with (or as with) an APRON; and APRONED =of the working-class, mechanic. Hence CHECKERED-APRON = a barber; BLUE-A-PRON (*q.v.*); GREEN-APRON = a lay-preacher; WHITE-APRON = a whore.

1592. LVLY, *Mydas*, iii. 2. Caper then, And cry up CHECKERD-APRON men.

1607. SHAKSPEARE, *Coriol.*, iv. 6. 96. You have made good work, You and your APRON MEN.

1609. ROWLEY, *Search for Money* [HALLIWELL]. We had the salute of welcome, gentlemen, presently: Wilt please ye see a chamber? It was our pleasure, as we answered the APRON-MAN, to see.

1611. CHAPMAN, *May-Day* (1673), II. 376. We have no wine here methinks, where's this APERNER? Drawer. Here, sir.

1628. FELTHAM, *Resolves*, xx. (1635), 73. Hee prodigals a Mine of Excellenceit that lavishes a terse Oration to an APRON'D Auditory.

1654. WARREN, *Unbelievers*, 145. It more befits a GREEN-APRON preacher, than such a Gamaliel.

1658. CLEVELAND, *Rustic Ramble* [Works, 1687], 429. APRON-MEN and Plough-joggers.

1659. GAUDEN, *Tears of the Church*, 238. He is scared with the menaces of some prating sequestor or some surly APRONEER. *Ibid.* 244. The APRON antipathy of a rustick, mechanick, and illiterate breeding.

1663. KILLELGREW, *Parson's Wedding* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1780), xi. 382]. APRON-ROGUES with horn hands.

1688. RANDLE HOLME, *Academy of Armory*. A barber is always known by his CHEQUE-pairt-coloured APRON; neither can he be termed a barber till his apron be about him.

1690. DURFEE, *Collin's Walk*, iii. 107. But every sturdy APRONEER, arm'd with batton, did straight appear.

d. 1704. BROWN, *Works*, iii. 292. The silly and trifling queries of the BLUE and GREEN APRON-MEN.

1705. HICKRINGILL, *Priestcraft*, i. (1721), 21. Unbenedic'd Noncons. (that live by Alms and no Paternoster, no Penny, say the GREEN-APRONS).

17[?]. POPE, *Imit. of Horace*. And some to hunt WHITE-APRONS in the park.

[1765. TUCKER, *Lt. Nat.*, ii. 451. The gifted priestess amongst the Quakers is known by her GREEN APRON.]

1865. DICKENS, *Mut. Friend*, iii. iv. 289. I mean to APRON it and towel it.

1880. BLACKMORE, *Mary Anerley*, iii. xvi. 230. The bramble APRONED the yellow dup of shale with brown.

**APRON-WASHINGS**, *subs. phr.* (common).—Porter.

**AQUA**, *subs. (common)*.—Water: also AQUA-POMPAGINIS (GROSE: 'Dog-Latin'). Hence, in jocose combination, AQUAPOTE, AQUABIB (BAILEY, 1731), and AQUATIC = a water-drinker; AQUA-BOB = an icicle.

d. 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 186. But all won't cool his leachery, tho' he be turn'd a perfect AQUAPOTE.

c. 1790. FRANKLIN, *Autob.* The 'American AQUATIC,' as they used to call me, was stronger than those who drank porter.

1839. AINSWORTH, *Jack Sheppard* (1889), 15. We'll lather him with mud, shave him with a rusty razor, and drench him with AQUA POMPAGINIS.

1883. *Pall Mall Gas.*, 5 Feb., ii. 2. ['Water-drinker'] might be known henceforth as an 'AQUABIBIST,' or, if he prefers three syllables, 'AQUABIB.'

**AQUADIENTE**, *subs. (American)*.—Brandy.

1835. DANA, *Before the Mast*, xx. The AQUADIENTE and annison were pretty well in their heads.

**AQUATICS**, *subs. (Eton College)*.—

i. THE WET-BOB (*q.v.*) cricket-team; and (2) the playing-field used by them: *see SIXPENNY*.

**AQUA-VITÆ**, *subs. (old)*.—Formerly an alchemic term; but long popularly generic for ardent spirits: brandy, whiskey, etc. [L. = water of life. Cf. French *eau-de-vie*, and Irish *usquebaugh*.] Hence AQUA-VITÆ MAN = (1) a quack, and (2) a dram-seller; also in various combinations (*see* quoats.).

1542. BOORDE, *Dict.*, x. 258. [E.E.T.S.]. To speake of AQUA VITÆ, or of Iopcras.

1552. *Chron. Grey Friars* (1852), 74. A woman . . . that made AQWAVYTE.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, ii. 2. I will rather trust . . . an Irishman with my AQUA-VITÆ bottle. *Ibid.* (1602), *Twelfth Night*, ii. 5. Does it work upon him? Sir To. Like AQUA-VITÆ upon a midwife.

1599. CHAPMAN, *Humourous Day's Mirth* [SHEPHEARD (1874), 32. 2]. As if there were not ways enough to die by . . . surfeits, brave carouses, old AQUA-VITÆ, and too base wives. *Ibid.* (1611), *May-Day*, iii. 4. *Le.* Methinks 'tis sack. *Gi.* Let us taste, sir; 'tis claret, but it has been fetched again with AQUA-VITÆ.

c. 1600. *Merry Devil of Edmonton*, Induct., 64. Some AQUA-VITÆ! The Devil's very sick.

1601. SHERLEY, *Trans. Persia* (1863), 46. A crue of AQUA-VITÆ-BELLIED fellowes,

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, ii. 2.  
Will you have some of my AQUA? . . .  
Come, come, drink this draught of cinnamon water, and pluck up your spirits.

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, i. 1. Sell  
the dole beer to AQUA-VITÆ MEN.

d. 1632. WARD, *Sermons*, 21. An  
ancient Hebrew . . . put himself into the  
habit of a mountebank or travelling AQUA-  
VITÆ MAN, and made proclamation of a  
sovereign cordial water of life he had to  
sell.

1634. HOWELL, *Letters* (1650), II. 76.  
Sacks and Canaries . . . us'd to be  
drunk in AQUA-VITÆ MEASURES.

c. 1650. BRATHWAYTE, *Barnaby's JL.*  
(1723), 77. Rivers streaming, Banks re-  
sounding . . . Mightily did these delight  
me; O, I wished them AQUA VITÆ.

1678. BUTTLER, *Hudibras*, III. iii.  
208. Restor'd the fainting High and  
Mighty With Brandy-Wine and AQUA-  
VITÆ.

1749. WALPOLE, *Letters*, i. 216.  
Was glad to hear the AQUA VITÆ MAN  
crying a dram.

1785. BURNS, *Earnest Cry*, iii. That  
curst restriction On AQUA VITÆ.

1818. SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, xviii. A tass  
of brandy or AQUA VITÆ.

1899. JOHNSTON, *Old Dominion*, ii.  
Much sack and AQUA VITÆ was drunk to  
king, church, and reigning beauties.

**ARAB**, *subs.* (common).—I. A young  
street vagrant: also STREET ARAB  
and CITY ARAB. Whence (2) an  
outcast.

1848. GUTHRIE, *Plea for Ragged  
Schools*. [In this work the homeless  
wanderers and children of the streets were  
spoken of as ARABS OF THE CITY, and  
CITY ARABS.]

1848. SHAFTESBURY, *Speech in Parl.*,  
6 June. CITY ARABS . . . are like tribes  
of lawless freebooters, bound by no obliga-  
tions and utterly ignorant or utterly re-  
gardless of social duties.

1859. KINGSLEY, *Geof. Hamlyn*, xlii.  
Tossed from workhouse to prison, from  
prison to hulk—every man's hand against  
him—an ARAB of society.

1872. CALVERLEY, *Fly Leaves* [Title].  
The ARAB.

1883. *Pall Mall Gas.*, 27 Oct., 5.  
The hero and heroine began life as STREET  
ARABS of Glasgow.

**ARABIAN-BIRD**, *subs. phr.* (old).—  
Anything unique. [Properly = the  
phoenix.] Also ARABIAN-NIGHTS  
= the fabulous, the marvellous.

1605. SHAKESPEARE, *Cymbeline*, i. 7.  
She is alone the ARABIAN BIRD. *Ibid.*  
(1608), *Antony and Cleop.*, iii. 2. 12. Oh  
Antony, oh thou ARABIAN BIRD.

1808. SMITH, *Plymley's Letters  
[Works]* (1859), II. 180. 2. To cram him  
with ARABIAN-NIGHT stories about the  
Catholics.

**ARBOR VITÆ**, *subs.* (old).—The  
*penis*: see PRICK. [Latin = the  
Tree of Life.]—GROSE.

1886. BURTON, *Thousand Nights*,  
etc., x. 239. Of the *penis succedaneus*, that  
imitation of the ARBOR-VITÆ . . . every  
kind abounds.

**ARBOUR (THE)**, *subs.* (venery).—  
The female *pudendum*: see MONO-  
SYLLABLE.

**ARCADIAN-NIGHTINGALE (OR BIRD)**,  
*subs. phr.* (common).—An ass:  
see NIGHTINGALE.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. vii.  
Note. The country abounds with these  
ARCADIAN NIGHTINGALES. *Ibid.*, 'As you  
know, that ARCADIAN BIRD's note is very  
harmonious.'

**ARCH**, *adj.* (old colloquial).—Pro-  
perly chief, pre-eminent: hence  
(1) = clever, crafty, roguish  
(B. E.); and (2) = extreme, OUT-  
AND-OUT (q.v.). [O.E.D. : 'In  
modern use chiefly prefixed inten-  
sively to words of bad or  
odious sense.'] Thus, ARCH-  
BOTCHER = a clumsy patch-  
worker; ARCH-FOOL (or DOLT) =  
an out-and-out duffer; ARCH-  
KNAVE = a rascal of parts; ARCH-  
COVE (or ROGUE) = spec. the ring-  
leader of a band of gypsies or

thieves: whence ARCH-DELL (or DOXY)= 'the same in rank among the female canters or gypsies' (GROSE); ARCH - WHORE = a bilking harlot (B. E.), etc. Also = sharp, keen, splenetic: usually with *at* or *upon*.

1551. ROBINSON, *More's Utopia*, 39. Thies wysefooles and verye ARCHEDOLTES.

1594. *Merry Knack* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), vi. 528]. When I came to the Exchange, I espied . . . An ARCH-COSENER.

1635. CORBET. [FRENCH]. ARCH-BOTCHER of a Psalm or Prayer.

c. 1650. MAY, *Satyr. Puppy*, 46. Some ARCH-ROGUE . . . hath done her wrong.

1670. EACHARD, *Contempt Clergy.* Lads that are ARCH KNAVES at the nominative case.

1678. BUNYAN, *P. Prog.*, ii. 147. Greath. By-ends was the ARCH ONE. Hon. By-ends; What was he? Greath. A very ARCH FELLOW, a downright Hypocrite.

1712. STEELE, *Spectator*, 432. 5. A Templar, who was very ARCH upon Parsons.

1741. RICHARDSON, *Pamela*, i. 135. Sir Simon . . . you are very ARCH UPON us.

2. (old: now recognised).— Saucy; waggish. Thus ARCH (= witty) FELLOW (B. E.); ARCH (= pleasant) WAG (B. E.); ARCH DUKE = 'a comical or eccentric fellow' (GROSE).

1662. MORE, *Antid. Ath.* i. viii. That ARCH WAG . . . ridiculed that solid argument.

1710. *Tatler*, 193. 1. So ARCH a leer.

1775. WESLEY, *Works*, iv. 41. Some ARCH BOYS gave him such a mouthful of dirt.

1810. CRABBE, *Borough*, xv. ARCH was her look and she had pleasant ways.

1872. BLACK, *Adv. Phaeton*, xxiii. Her ARCH ways and her frank bearing.

1877. ARNOLD, *Poems*, i. 27. The ARCHEST chin Mockery ever ambush'd in.

*See* ARK.

**ARCHDEACON**, *subs.* (Oxford Univ.). —Merton strong ale.

**ARCHWIFE**, *subs.* (old).—A masterful woman; a virago.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Clerk's Tale, 9071. Ye ARCHEWIVES, stondeth ay at defence, Sin ye be strong as is a gret camaille, Ne suffreth not that men do you offence.

c. 1530. *Pol. Rel. and Love Poems* [E. E. T. S.], 46. But ARCHWIVES eger in ther violence, Ferse as a tigre for to make affray.

**ARD**, *adj.* (Old Cant).—Hot (GROSE); 'ardent.'

**ARDELIO**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—See quoats. Also *ardelio*.

1598. FLORIO, *World of Wordes*, s.v. ARDELIO . . . one that hath an oare in others boates.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, I. ii. iv. 7. Striving to get that which we had better be without, ARDELIOS, busybodies as we are.

1653. UROQUHART, *Rabelais*, III. 20. What is it that this . . . ARDELIONE doth aim at?

**AREA-SNEAK** (or **SLUM**), *subs. phr.* (old).—A petty thief: spec. one working houses by means of an AREA-gate (GROSE): see SNEAK, SLUM, and THIEF.

1865. DICKENS, *Mutual Friend* (C.D. ed.), 104. Making me Guy Fawkes in the vault, and a SNEAK IN THE AREA both at once.

1869. *Eng. Mechanic*, 14 May, 181. 1. Would infallibly become pickpockets or AREA-SNEAKS.

**ARG**, *verb.* (vulgar).—To argue; to grumble: cf. ARGLE.

**ARGAL**, *adv.* (common).—Therefore; ergo: of which it is a corruption. As *subs.* = a clumsy argument. See ARGLE.

1602. SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet*, v. 1.  
21. He drowns not himself: ARGAL, he  
that is not guilty of his own death shortens  
not his own life.

d. 1535. SIR THOMAS MORE, 24  
(*Works*, folio 1557), s.v.

d. 1627. MIDDLETON, (*Works* (DVCE),  
i. 392), s.v.

1861. *Times*, 23 Aug. Mr. Buckle's  
argument . . . as absurd an ARGAL as  
ever was invented.

1871. MORLEY, *Crit. Misc.*, 152.  
We should not be beaten if we did not  
deserve it, ARGAL, suffering is a merited  
punishment.

**ARGENT**, *subs.* (old). — Money :  
generic : spec. silver money  
(BAILEY): *see* GENT. Hence  
ARGENTOCRACY = the power of  
money ; MAMMON (q.v.).

c. 1500. *Partenay*, 1119. Every day  
had ther money and ARGENT.

1583. STUBBES, *Anat. Abuses*, i.  
52. Whether they haue ARGENTE, to  
mayntaine this geare.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works*, ii. 18. 2.  
Some hound-like senting sergeant . . .  
tires him out for ARGENT.

1864. *Revue des Deux Mondes*, 15  
Sept., 470. Les voleurs anglais disent  
GENT pour 'ARGENT.'

1868. *Pall Mall Gas.*, 23 May, 11.  
The disease of ARGENTOCRACY.

**ARGLE**, *verb.* (old colloquial). — To  
argue disputatiously ; to haggle ;  
to bandy words : also ARGLE-  
BARGLE, ARGOL-BARGOL, or  
ARGIE-BARGIE. Whence ARGOL-  
BARGOLOUS = quarrelsome : cf.  
ARG.

1589. *Hay any Work* (1844), 11. I  
will never stand ARGLING the matter any  
more.

1822. GALT, *Provost*, 194. No  
doubt his ARGOL-BARGOLOUS disposition  
was an inheritance. *Ibid.* (1823), *Entail*,  
i. 53. 'Weel, weel,' said the laird, 'dinna  
let us ARGOL-BARGOL about it.'

1827. MOIR, *Mansie Wauch*, 78.  
Me and the minister were just ARGLE-  
BARGLING some few words on the doctrine  
of the camel and the eye of the needle,

1827. WILSON, *Noct. Amb.*, i. 336.  
But I hate a' ARGLING and BARGLE-  
BARGLING.

1861. RAMSAY, *Remin.*, II. 99. And  
all ARGLE-BARGLING, as if at the end of a  
fire.

**ARGOT**, *subs.* (literary). — *See* quots.  
SLANG and CANT. Whence  
ARGOTIC = slangy.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Nar-  
guois* [apparently for NARGUOIS]. An  
impostor, Counterfeit Rogue . . . also the  
gibbridge or barbarous language used  
among them.

1843. *Quarterly Rev.*, clxii. 177.  
Words or expressions in an ancient  
language, if they happen to coincide with  
some modern ARGOT or vulgarity, take on  
a grotesque association which is not due at  
all to the phrase itself.

1860. FARRAR, *Origin of Language*,  
vi. Leaves an uninviting ARGOT in the  
place of warm and glowing speech. *Ibid.*  
ARGOT is formed . . . by the adoption of  
foreign words, by the absolute suppression of  
grammar, by grotesque tropes, wild  
catachresis, and allegorical metonymy.

1863. *Sat. Rev.*, 149. ARGOTIC  
locations.

1869. *Fam. Speech*, ii. 78. The  
ARGOTS of nearly every nation.

1882. SMYTHE-PALMER, *Folk Ety-  
mology*, 573. ARGOT, the French word for  
slang, cant, was probably at first *nargot*,  
denoting (1) a thief or robber, (2)  
thieves' language.

1888. *Oxford Eng. Dict.*, s.v.  
ARGOT. [Of unknown origin.] The  
jargon, slang, or peculiar phraseology of a  
class, *orig.* that of thieves and rogues.

1888. BARRERE, *Argot and Slang*,  
s.v. *Narguois* (old cant), formerly a  
thievish or vagrant old soldier . . . *Parler  
narguois* . . . to talk the jargon of  
vagabonds.

1899. *Century Dict.*, s.v. ARGOT.  
The conventional slang of a class, originally  
that of thieves and vagabonds, devised  
for purposes of disguise and concealment.

**ARGUE**. *TO ARGUE OUT OF*  
(AWAY, A DOG'S TAIL OFF, etc.),  
*verb.* *phr.* (colloquial). — To get  
rid of by argument : *see* TALK.

1713. *Guardian*, 60. Which . . . have clearly ARGUED THAT ANIMAL OUT OF THE CREATION.

1719. *YOUNG, Revenge*, i. 1. We call on wit to ARGUE IT AWAY.

1865. *THOMPSON, Odds and Ends*. Men . . . would ARGUE A DOG'S TAIL OFF.

**ARGUFY**, *verb. (colloquial)*.—1. To argue; to worry; to wrangle. Whence (2) to signify; to prove of consequence; to follow as a result of argument. ARGUFIER =a contentious talker. See ARG and ARGLE.

1751. *SMOLLETT, Per. Pickle*, lxxviii. Howsoever, that don't ARGUFY in reverence of his being in a hurry. *Ibid.* (1771). *Humph. Clinker*, 797. Would you go for to offer for to ARGUEFY me out of my senses.

1758. *MURPHY, Upholsterer*, i. Well, it does not signify ARGIFYING.

d. 1763. *SHENSTONE, To a Friend*. I've done (she mutter'd), I was saying It did not ARGUFIES my playing; Some folks will win, they can not choose, But, think or not think, some must lose.

1795. *D'ARBLAY, Diary*, 9 June, vi. 41. But what ARGUFIES all this festivity? 'tis all vanity and exhalation of spirit.

1800. *EDGEWORTH, Will*, ii. I can't stand ARGUFYING here about charity.

c. 1800. *DIBDIN, Poor Jack*, iii. What ARGUFIES sniveling and piping your eye.

1800. *COOMBE, Syntax*, ii. v. I have no learning, no, not I, Nor do pretend to ARGUFY.

1837. *LYTTON, Maltravers*, iv. vii. I should like to have you on the roadside instead of within these four gimcrack walls . . . the ARGUFYING would be all in my favour then.

1855. *HALIBURTON, Nature and Human Nature*. I listen to a preacher, and try to be better for his ARGUFYING.

1862. *LOWELL, Biglow Papers*, ii. 15. It ain't no use to ARGERY nor try to cut up frisky.

d. 1864. *LEECH, Cartoon*. Do you want to ARGIFY, you little beggar?

1865. *Sat. Rev.*, 12 Aug., 197. 2. People who are always ARGUEFYING are the . . . worst of bores.

1876. *BLACK, Madcap Violet*, vii. I am thwarted, crushed, ARGUFIED at every turn.

1881. *CLARK RUSSELL, Sailor's Sweetheart*, i. I have noticed that your people who are pretty well agreed are always the fiercest ARGUPIERS.

**ARISTIPPUS**, *subs. (Old Cant)*.—1. Canary wine.

c. 1627. *MIDDLETON [Works (HALLIWELL)*, ii. 422]. Rich ARISTIPPUS, sparkling sherry.

1703. *DE FOE, True Born Englishman*. The Sages . . . Praise Epicurus rather than Lysander, and ARISTIPPUS more than Alexander.

2. (old).—'A Diet-drink, or Decoction of Sarsa China, etc. Sold at certain Coffee-houses, and drank as T' (B. E. and GROSE).

**ARK (or ARCH)**, *subs. (Old Cant)*.—

1. A boat; a wherry: e.g. Let us take an ARK and winns=Let us take a sculler (B. E. and GROSE). Hence ARKMAN=a waterman: see quot. 1785 and ACKMAN. Also (2), in Western America, a flat-bottomed market-produce boat (BARTLETT): rarely seen since the introduction of steam.

1785. *GROSE, Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. ARK RUFFIANS. Rogues who, in conjunction with watermen, rob, and sometimes murder, on the water, by picking a quarrel with the passengers in a boat, boarding it, plundering, stripping, and throwing them overboard, etc. A species of badger. *Cant.*

1799. *Descr. Settl. Genesee Co., N.Y. [BARTLETT]*. These boats were invented by a Mr. Knyder, of Juniata River, who first tried the experiment, and reached Baltimore in safety. 'They are made of plank, are broken up after discharging their cargo, and sold for lumber, with little or no loss. They are navigated by three or five men, and will float down at the rate of eighty miles a day; they are called ARKS.'

1884. H. EVANS, *London Rambler*, 'Brighton Beach Loafer' [S. J. and C.]. I goes and sneaks a mikket and a lot of lines of a pal's ARCH.

3. (military).—A barrack-room chest: a lingering use of an old dialect word.

**ARKANSAS-TOOTHPICK**, *subs. phr. (American)*.—A large sheath-knife: orig. a BOWIE-KNIFE (*q. v.*).

1854. MARTIN and AVTOUN, *Bon Gaultier Ballads*. 'Straightway leaped the valiant Slingsby Into armor of Seville, With a strong ARKANSAS TOOTHPICK, Screwed in every joint of steel.'

1881. GREENLEAF, *Ten Years in Texas*, 27. All these [men] . . . could be seen with a Navy six-shooter and an ARKANSAS TOOTHPICK suspended to a raw-hide belt tucked around their waists.

1888. *Detr. Fr. Pr.*, Aug. It is not good form to use a TOOTHPICK in ARKANSAS now. A big revolver is the thing.

**ARK-FLOATER**, *subs. (theatrical)*.—An actor well advanced in years.

**ARM**. COLLOQUIALISMS are: TO MAKE A LONG ARM=to exert oneself; AS LONG AS ONE'S ARM=very long; TO WORK AT ARM'S LENGTH=to do awkwardly; ONE UNDER THE ARM (tailors')=an extra job; IN THE ARMS OF MURPHY (or MORPHEUS)=asleep: *see MURPHY*.

c. 1836. EDGEWORTH, *Love and Law*, 1. v. You're no witch if you don't see a cobweb AS LONG AS MY ARM.

1884. *D. News*, 26 Jan., 6. 2. Monkeys . . . MAKING LONG ARMS . . . for stray beans or sweetmeats.

**ARMFUL**, *subs. (colloquial)*.—A heap; a large quantity; spec. (modern), an endearment; of a 'bouncing' baby, a big 'cuddle-some' wench, etc.

1579. STUBBES, *Gaping Gulf*, Cvij. By ARMEFULS lading [money] out of the exchequer.

c. 1613. ROWLANDS, *More Knaves*, 28. I like a handfull of old loue and true, Better than these whole ARMEFULS of your new.

c. 1720. CENTLIVRE, *Wonder*, i. 1. Thou shalt have an ARMFUL of flesh and blood.

**ARMIN**, *subs. (old)*.—*See* *quot.*

1605. *London Prodigal*, 122. LUCE. O here God, so young an ARMIN! *Flow.* ARMIN, sweetheart, I know not what you mean by that, but I am almost a beggar.

1899. *Century Dict.*, s.v. **ARMIN**. [Perhaps for ARMING (of which, however, no record is found for 400 years preceding) . . . from A.S. *earming*, a wretched person.]

**ARMOUR. IN ARMOUR**, *adv. phr. (old)*.—Pot-valiant; PRIMED (*q. v.*); full of DUTCH COURAGE (*q. v.*): *see SCREWED* (B. E. and **GROSE**).

**ARMPITS. TO WORK UNDER THE ARMPITS**, *verb. phr. (old)*.—To escape the halter by the skin of one's teeth: *see* *quot.* [On the passing of Sir Samuel Romilly's Act, capital punishment was abolished for highway robberies under 40s. in value.]

1785. **GROSE**, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. **ARMPITS** . . . To practise only such kinds of depredation, as will amount, upon conviction, to whatever the law calls single, or petty, larceny; the extent of punishment for which is transportation for seven years. By following this system, a thief avoids the halter, which certainly is applied *above* the armpits.

**ARM-PROP**, *subs. phr. (old)*.—A crutch; a WOODEN-LEG (*q. v.*).

1825. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry*, ii. 6. If any lady or gemman is inclined for a dance, I'll nash my ARM-PROPS in a minute. (*Throws down his crutches.*)

**ARMS-AND-LEGS**, *subs. phr. (common)*.—Small beer: 'because there is no body in it' (**GROSE**).

**ARM-SLASHER (or STABBER), *subs.***  
*phr.* (old).—A gallant who bled his arm to toast his mistress: hence TO DAGGER (or STAB) ARMS=to toast a 'lady-love.'

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Taillebras*, a hackster, ARME-SLASHER.

d. 1633. MARSTON, *Works* [NARES]. Have I not STAB'D ARMS, and done all the offices of protested gallantry for your sake?

**ARMSTRONG.** *See CAPTAIN ARMSTRONG.*

**ARRAH,** *intj.* (Irish).—'An expletive, with no special meaning' (GROSE); 'an expletive expressing emotion or excitement, common in Anglo-Irish speech *O.E.D.*.' [Farquhar was of Irish birth.]

1705. FARQUHAR, *Twin Rivals*, iii. 2. *Teague.* ARAH, you Fool, ish it not the saamting. *Ibid.* (1707), *Beaux Stras.*, v. 2. ARRA, Honeys, a clear Caase.

1753. SMOLLETT, *Count Fathom*, 119. Upon which he bade me turn out, 'ARRA, for what?' said I.

1820. COOMBE, *Syntax*, ii. ii. 157 ARRAH, my Dears, it does confound me.

**ARRAY, verb.** (old colloquial).—I. To thrash; TO DRESS DOWN (*q.v.*); (2) to afflict; to PUNISH (*q.v.*); and (3) to defile. Hence as *subs.*=a drubbing; a PICKLE (*q.v.*); a plight; 'a pretty state of affairs.'

c. 1380. *Sir Ferumbras*, 417. A man heȝ of mod: Sarasyȝ to yule [= ill] ARRAYE.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Wife of Bath's Tale', 46. Thow stondest yet . . . in such ARRAY, That of thy lyf hastow no swerte'.

c. 1400. BERYN, 603. We wolde ARAY hym so That he [ne] shuld have legge ne foot, to-morow on to go.

c. 1420. PALLADIUS on *Husbandry*, i. 320. But upon clay If thou wilt bilde an other is the ARRAY.

1470-85. MALORY, *Arthur* (1816), ii. 399. 'Aha! what ARRAY is this?' said Sir Launcelot.

1481. *Reynard the Fox*, 85 (1844). I am so sore ARAYED, and sore hurted.

c. 1500. *Lancelot*, 3270. Remembir the, how yhow haith ben ARAID . . . With love.

1509. HAWES, *Past. Pleas.*, xviii. xxxix. Hath love suche myght for to ARAY you so In so short a space?

c. 1529. SKELTON, *Elinour Rummyng*, 163. Some have no mony—For theyr ale to pay; That is a shreud ARAY.

c. 1530. BERNERS, *Arth. Lyt. Bryt.* (1814), 131. Al syr . . . thus hath ARAYED me two armed knighthes.

1530. *Calisto and Malib.* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), i. 78]. Indeed age hath ARAYED thee.

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Fran.*, 435. 2. I ARAYE or fyle with myer. *jemoube.* *Ibid.*, 436. 1. You have ARRAYED your gowne agaynst the wall.

1548. UDAL, *Erasmus*, Par. Luke, xiii. ii. ARAIED with a disease both incurable and peiteous to see.

1568. JACOB and *Esau* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), ii. 252]. Where are we now become? marry, sir, here is ARRAY.

1575. STILL, *Gammer Gurton's Needle*, i. 2. See, so cham ARRAYED with dabbling in the dirt.

c. 1600. *New Notbroune Mayd* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet.*, iii. 17]. Vyce . . . Whiche hath the hym so Encombered and ARAYED.

**ARROW (or ARRA), (vulgar).**—A corruption of 'e'er, a,' or 'ever a.'

1750. FIELDING, *Tom Jones*, v. viii. I don't believe . . . ARROW a servant in the house ever saw the colour of his money. *Ibid.*, viii. ii. I warrants me there is NARROW a one of all those officer fellows but looks upon himself to be as good as ARROW a squire of £500 a year.

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humphrey Clinker*, i. 126. I now carries my head higher than ARROW private gentlewoman of Vales.

**'ARRY, subs. (common).**—That is 'Harry': a popular embodiment of the vulgar, rollicking, yet on the whole good-tempered 'rough' of the metropolis. Whence '**ARRIET**'=Arry's 'young woman' [Popularised by Milliken in a series of ballads in *Punch*.] '**ARRYISH**'=vulgarly jovial.

1874. *Punch's Almanack*, 'Arry on Orseback. [TITLE.]

1879. *Sat. Rev.*, 9 Aug. When one has listened to one van-load of 'ARRIES, one has heard all of them. *Ibid.* (1881), No. 1318, 148. The local 'ARRY has torn down the famous tapestries of the great hall.

1880. *WALLACE [Academy*, 28 Feb., 156. 1]. He has a fair stock of somewhat 'ARRIVISH animal spirits, but no real humour.

1880. *Pall Mall Gas.*, 27 Sept., 2. 2. £750 which it abstracts every year from the public funds to go a-'ARRY-AND-'ARRIETTING on the river.

**ARSE, subs. (old literary: now vulgar).**—1. The posteriors; the BUM (*q.v.*); see HOLE. Hence (2) the fag-end; the TAIL (*q.v.*). As verb. = to JUT THE BUM (GROSE). Whence numerous COMBINATIONS and COLLOQUIALISMS: ARSE-BOARD=(1) the tail-board of a cart (whence TO FOLLOW A CART'S ARSE=to be whipped through the town), and (2) the back flap of a girl's breeches (*cf.* TAIL-BOARD); ARSE-CASE (or -RUG)=breeches; ARSE-COOLER=a bustle (or dress-improver); ARSE-FIRKER=a flogging pedagogue; ARSE-FOOT (*see* quotes, 1598 and 1774); ARSE-GUT=the rectum; ARSE-HOLE=the *sphincter ani*; ARSE-HOLE CREEPER=a parasite; ARSE-HOLE PERISHER, a pea-jacket; ARS-MUSICA=crepitation; ARSE-OPENER (-WEDGE, SPLIT-ARSE, or ARSEOMETER)=the *penis*: see PRICK; SPLIT-ARSED MECHANIC

=a whore; ARSE-WINNINGS (or EARNINGS)=SOCKET-MONEY (*q.v.* 3); ARSE-PIPES=the bowels; ARSE-PUSH (or [Scots] ARSLINS COUP)=a back fall; ARSE-GUTS=the guts; ARSE SMART (*see* quot. 1617); ARSE-WISP=BUMFODDER (*q.v.*); ARSE-WORM=a term of contempt, 'a little diminutive Fellow' (B. E.); THE GUSSET OF THE ARSE=the inside edge of the buttocks; HEAVY-ARSE=a sluggard: as *adj.*=lumpish; OPEN-ARSE=(1) a medlar, and (2) a girl; THE BROAD ARSE-HOLE=sodomy; WHIP-ARSE=(1) a schoolmaster, and (2) a flogging bawd; TOTTER-ARSE=a see-saw: as *adj.*=unsteady; ARSED (DOUBLE-ARSED, LARGE-ARSED, BROAD-ARSED, or TRIPLE-ARSED)=big-bottomed; TO ARSLE=(1) to move backwards, and (2) to fidget; TO HANG AN ARSE=to hold back, to hesitate; TO GO ARSE OVER HEAD (or TIP)=to fall sprawling; TO GREASE A FAT SOW ON THE ARSE=to be insensible of a kindness (RAY); TO DANCE WITH ONE'S ARSE TO THE CEILING=to copulate: also (of women only) TO RUB ONE'S ARSE ON; ARSLINGS=backwards; ARSE-LONG (*cf.* side-long); ARSE-UPWARDS=in good luck; ARSE-WARDS (*adj.* and *adv.*)=(1) backwards, (2) contrariwise, and (3) perverse; ARSY-VARSY=topsy-turvy, *vice-versa*; MERRY-ARSED=wanton, SHORT-HEELED (*q.v.*); HOT-ARSED=salacious; COLD-ARSED=(1) frigid, and (2) chaste: also TIGHT-ARSED; HARD-ARSED=niggardly: also HARD-ARSE=third-class as opposed to SOFT-ARSE=first-class; SHITTEN-ARSE=a contemptible fellow; ARSE AND ARSE=side by side; ARSE TO ARSE=back to back; ARSE-FIRST

(OR FOREMOST)=backwards; UP TO THE ARSE=deeply engaged; OVER THE ARSE IN (love, work, debt, etc.)=hopelessly entangled; ARSE IN AIR=on her knees; ARSE ABOUT=face round; ARSE BY ARSE=one by one; BEES (or WORMS) IN THE ARSE=uneasy; 'AX (KISS, or SUCK) MY ARSE'!=the most derisive of retorts: also ARSE-HOLE AND SUCK IT; 'ANCHOR YOUR ARSE'!=sit down! (GROSE); 'MY ARSE IN A BANDBOX'!=an expression of extreme disgust (GROSE). Also various PROVERBAL AND OTHER SAYINGS; 'Such a hop-o'-my-thumb that a pigeon sitting on her shoulder might pick a pea out of her ARSE' (GROSE); 'Afraid of the hatchet lest the helve stick in his ARSE' (RAY); 'The kettle calls the pot BLACK-ARSE' (q.v.); 'A short horse is soon wisp'd, and a bare ARSE soon kissed' (RAY)= 'He that knows little soon repeats it'; 'You would KISS MY ARSE before my breeches were down'; 'Kit Careless, your ARSE hangs by trumps'; 'Like a Waterford merchant, up to the ARSE in business'; 'He would lend his A—SE and sh—te through his ribs' (GROSE: 'a saying of anyone who lends his money inconsiderately'); 'She would lose her A—SE if it was loose,' or were not tied to her) (GROSE: 'said of a careless person'); 'Not a six-pence to scratch his ARSE with'=utterly poor; 'He doesn't know his ARSE from his elbow'=(1) He is utterly stupid, and (2) absolutely ignorant; 'My ARSE hangs heavy'='I've no pluck left'; 'She has a heavy ARSE to drive home a lazy prick' (said of a solid woman); 'My ARSE to yours'='I'm as good as you are'; 'His

eyes are in his ARSE'=(1) to miss the obvious; and (2) to be keen of observation with eyes everywhere; etc.

c. 1000. *ÆLFRIC, Glossary* (WRIGHT, 44. 2). *Nates, EARS-LYRE*. *Ibid.*, 44. 2. *Anus vel verpus, EARS PERL*. *Ibid.*, 45. 2. *Tergosode, EARSODE*.

c. 1000. *Ag. Psalm xxxiv. 5*. Syn hi ȝecyde on EARSLING.

B. 1377. *LANGLAND, Piers Plowman*, B. v. 175. Baleised on þe bars ARS. *Ibid.*, C. vii. 306. An hore of hure ERSWYNNINGE may hardiloker tythe. *Ibid.* (WRIGHT), 5857. I wolde his eighre were in his ERS.

1382. *WYCLIF, 1 Sam. v. 9*. The ARSROPPIS of hem goyng out stonken.

1383. *CHAUCER, Cant. Tales*, s.v.

1398. *TREISA* [Transl. BARTHOLOMEUS ANGLICUS], *De Prop. Kerum*, vii. liv. (1495); 267. Emoroides ben fuyue veynes whyche stretche out atte the ERES.

c. 1400. [WRIGHT, *Vocab.*, 183.] *ARCE-HOOLE, podex*. *Ibid.* (c. 1450), 186, 2. *Cirbus, HARS-THARME*.

c. 1400. *Rom. Rose*, 7580. Thou shalt for this sinne dwelle Right in the divels ARSE of hell.

1401. *Pol. Poems*, II. 64. If þe taken as þe used ARSEWORDE this gospel.

1440. *Propri. Parv.*, s.v. ARSWYPE, *Maniperium, aniergium*.

1480. *CAXTON, Chronicles of England*, ccxxvi. 233. They lete hange fox tailles . . . to hele and hyde her ARSES.

c. 1500. *Almanack for 1386* (1812), 12. A crab es an ARWORD best.

15[?]. *How the Plowman Learned his Pater Noster*, 120. To cover their ARSES they had not a hole ragge.

15[?]. *Jack Juggler* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (Hazlitt), ii. 121]. His ARSE maketh buttons now. *Ibid.*, 137. Thou wouldest LESE THINE ARSE, IF IT WERE LOOSE.

15[?]. *Treatise of Galaunt* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poetry*, iii. 157]. With longe taters downe to the ARS behynde.

15[?]. *Tournament of Totenham*, 322. They did but ran ERSWARD, And ilke a man went backward Toppe ouer tayle.

c. 1520. *Wif of Auchtermucky*, 88.  
The fyre burnt aw the pat ARSE out.

1530. *PALSGRAVE, Lang. Francoise*,  
436. 2. What up, HEAVY-ARSE, canst  
thou nat arsyse? *Ibid.*, 829, 2. All ARSE-  
WARDLY, all frowardly, tout a rebours.

1539. *TAVERNER, Erasm. Prov.*  
(1552), 62. Ye set the cart before the  
horse . . . cleane contrarily, and ARSY-  
VERSY as they say.

1540. *RAYNALD, Byrth Man* (1564),  
54. [The foetus] proceedeth . . . sidelong,  
ARSELONG, or backlong.

c. 1541. *Schole-house of Women* [HAZ-  
LITT, *Early Pop. Poet.*, iv. 113]. He  
would not once turn me for to kisse; Euer  
night he riseth for to pisse. And when he  
commeth again vnwarmed. Dooth turn his  
ARSE into my barme.

1542. *UDALL, Erasmus* [OLIPHANT,  
*New Eng.*, i. 489]. Vice versa appears as  
ARSIE VERSIE, and this phrase may still  
be heard.

1547. *BOORDE, Breviary of Health*,  
xxv. 150. The 25th chapitre dothe shewe  
of a mannes ARS.

1551. *STILL, Gammer Gurton's  
Needle*, i. 2. Fisking with her tail As  
though there had been IN HER ARSE a  
swarm of BEES.

1553. *BALE* [GARDENER, *True Obe-  
dience*], Pref. Hij. Whence he can never  
escape except he com out ARSEWARDE.

1556. *Chron. Grey Friars* (1552), 73.  
Whypyd . . . at the CARTTES ARSE . . .  
for vacobondes.

1561. *PRESTON, Cambyses* [DODSLEY,  
*Old Plays* (HAZLITT), iv. 179]. Let us  
run his ARSE against the post.

1562. *HEYWOOD, Proverbs* (1567), 16.  
To beg a breeche of a bare ARST man.

1565. *GOLDING, Ovid's Met.*, vii.  
(1593), 164. Cerberus . . . dragging ARS-  
WARD still.

1577. *HOLINSHED, Chron.*, II. 26. 2.  
The estate of that flourishing towne was  
turned ARSIE VERSIE, topside the other  
wae.

1579. *TOMSON, Calvin's Serm. Tim.*,  
127. 1. How ARSEWARD a thing it is for  
euer man to be giuen to his owne profiter.  
*Ibid.*, 8. 2. Behold how ARSEWARDLY we  
goe alwayes when we pray to God.

1592. *MARSTON, Satyres*, 'Ad Ryth-  
mum. But if you HANG AN ARSE like  
Tabered When Chremes dragged him from  
his brothel bed.

1595. *SHAKSPEARE, Romeo and  
Juliet*, II. 1. Oh, Romeo! that she were,  
oh, that she were an OPEN ARSE, thou a  
paperin pear!

1598. *FLORIO, Worlde of Wordes*,  
s.v. *Cinero* . . . a bird called a diuer, a  
didapper, or ARSEFOOTE.

1599. *Gabelhouer's Bk. Physic*, 130. 2.  
For the comminge out of the ARSEGUTTE.

c. 1600. *Timon* i. 5. (1612), 20. This  
man this daye rose with his ARSE UP-  
WARDS: To daye a fidler, and at night a  
noble.

1601. *JONSON, Poetaster*, iv. 4. Vali-  
ant? so is mine ARSE. *Ibid.*, 1609, *Epi-  
cane*, ii. 1. Go out of the world like a  
. . . fly, as one said, with a straw in your  
ARSE.

1607. *DEKKER, Northward Hoe*, ii.  
1. They shall traw you very lustily, as if  
the devil were in their ARSES. *Ibid.*, iv. 1.  
Jesu, are [w]immen so ARSY VARSY.

1611. *COTGRAVE, Dict.*, s. v. *Cul*.  
An ARSE, bumme, tayle, NOCKANDRO,  
fundamente. *Ibid.*, *Fesse-cul*. A Pedantic-  
call WHIP-ARSE. *Ibid.*, *Culant*, giuing an  
ARSE-POSSE vnto. *Ibid.*, *Cul-pele*, bauld-  
ARST.

1612. *Passeng. of Benvenuto* [NARES].  
Oh, but there's great difference betwixt  
in deed and being so reputed. Dost thou  
not know that from the beginning the  
world goes ARSIE-VERSIE?

1613. *WEBSTER, Devil's Law-case*,  
iv. 2. I am but a young thing, And was  
drawn ARSY VARSY into the business.  
*Ibid.*, v. 4. The Welshman in's play . . .  
Hung still AN ARSE.

1616. *FLETCHER, Knight of Malta*,  
iv. 2. Hang ARSE-WARD.

1617. *MINSHEU, Ductor*, 544. ARS-  
MART . . . because if it [water pepper] touch  
the taile or other bare skinne, it  
maketh it smart, as often it doth, being  
laid into the bed greene to kill fleas.

1622. *MASSINGER, Virgin Martyr*,  
ii. 1. The ARSE, as it were, or fag end of  
the world. *Ibid.* (1633), *Guardian*, v.  
v. Nay, no HANGING AN ARSE.

1632. *CHAPMAN, Ball*, v. 5. Kiss my  
hand! KISS MY ARSE, noble ladies.

1639-61. *Rump Songs*, ii. 86. Nay,  
if it HANG AN ARSE We'll pluck it from the  
stares, And roast it at hell for its grease.

1647-8. *HERRICK, Hesperides*. 'Upon  
Skoles.' Cloy'd they are up with ARSE.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. vi. Her . . . ARSE-PIPES and conduits, were . . . obstructed and contracted. *Ibid.*, xi. This little lecher was always groping his nurses and governesses, upside down, ARSEVERSY, topsyturvy. *Ibid.* He would sit down betwixt two stools, and his ARSE to the ground. *Ibid.*, xiii. Of all . . . ARSEWISPS . . . none . . . comparable to the neck of a goose.

1659. BROME, *Eng. Moor*, iii. 2. It is the ARSIVARSIEST Ause that ever crept into the world.

1660. HOWELL, *Lexicon-Tetr.*, s.v. ARSE-PUSH.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, i. i. 456. Could he stir To active trot one side of's Horse. The other would not HANG AN ARSE. *Ibid.*, i. iii. 904. Then mounted both upon their Horses, But with their Faces to the ARSES.

1664. COTTON, *Scarronides* (1770). Then (at his Ease) ARSING ABOUT. *Ibid.*, 89. A wandering Woman that had scarce A Rag to hang upon her —. *Ibid.* (1677). *Burlesque upon Burlesque*, 154. Never HANG AN ARSE for th' Matter.

1668. LESTRANGE, *Quevedo*, 32 (1678). Methought the old slutish Proverb that says There is a great distance between the Pulse and the ARSE was much to blame for making such a difference in their Dignities. *Ibid.*, 66. 'Tis the very ARSE-GUT, the Drain and Sink of Monarchies.

1672. PHILLIPS, *Maronides*, 120. Some in the next Woods refuge take, For all their ARSES buttons make.

1672. RAY, *Proverbs*, 'Jocularity Proverbs.' He rose with his ARSE UPWARDS. A sign of good luck. *Ibid.*, 'Proverbial Phrases.' ARSV-VERSY . . . a pretended spell written upon the door of a house to keep it from burning.

1679-80. RADCLIFFE, *Ovid Travestie*, 96. Did I, when Flannel was both dear and scarce, Make you Trunk-hose to your ungrateful ARSE.

1683. HOOKER, *Pordage's Myst. Div.*, 'Pref.', 24. As if every man went the wrong waie to work; All ARSI-VARSI.

1686. DORSET, *Faithful Catalogue [ROCHESTER, Works* (1718), ii. 32]. Her rapacious ARSE Is fitter for thy sceptre than thy tarse.

1686. STUART, *Joco-Ser. Disc.*, 30. See take some pity on your love And do not still so ARSEWARD prove.

d. 1691. BAXTER, *Shove to HEAVY-ARSED Christians* [Title].

1692. DUNTON, *Postboy Robb'd* (1706), 173. Go to, let us not enter Rome, that is, not into a Discourse of ARSEY-VERSEY Love.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, iv. vi. Your Leominster superfine wool is MINE ARSE to it; mere flock in comparison. *Ibid.*, ix. A little SHITTEN-ARSED girl.

d. 1704. BROWNE, *Works*, ii. 11. That's MINE A— IN A BANDBOX. *Ibid.*, 187. Luscious words . . . so intelligibly express'd that a girl of ten . . . may understand the meaning . . . my lord Rochester's songs are MINE ARSE to it. *Ibid.*, 204. The pious scoundrels of England rose with their ARSES UPPEMOS. *Ibid.*, i. 68. May . . . Fistulas thy ARSE-HOLE seize by Dozens.

1704. SWIFT, *Tale of a Tub*, xi. Honest friend, pray favour me with a handsome kick on the ARSE. *Ibid.* (1704), *Battle of the Books* (1711), 235. Do you think I have nothing else to do but to mend and repair after your ARSE. *Ibid.* (c. 1733), *Ans. New Simile for the Ladies*. Who makes, you think, the clouds he pierces? He pierces the clouds! he KISS THEIR A—ES. *Ibid.*, *Problem*. Once on a time there was an A— GUT.

1705. WARD, *Hud. Red.*, i. i. 10. His Stings that issue from his ARSE and Mouth. *Ibid.*, 28. No Saucebox, sure, by way of farce Will bid his Pastor KISS HIS ARSE. *Ibid.* (1706), *Wooden World*, 73. While he has a Rag to his ARSE, he scorns to make use of a Napkin. *Ibid.*, 63. So . . . ill-bred a Pimp, as constantly to TURN HIS ARSE upon that glorious Benefactor [the sun]. *Ibid.* (c. 1709), *Terrafilius*, iv. 34. If any . . . Foolish Wench [has] stumbled ARSE foremost to the cracking of her Pipkin. . . . *Ibid.* (1711?), *Humours of a Coffee-house*. Rightly taken by the Horse Whose Farrier sticks the Pipe into his A—. *Ibid.*, *Lampoon on two Famous Strumpets*. Why should their ARSES be idle? *Ibid.*, *Vulcan and Venus*. I'll run a hot bar in your Goddesship's ARSE.

d. 1721. PRIOR, *The Ladle*. What should be great, you turn to farce; I wish the Ladle in your A—.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, i. 112. [Letters.] . . . are good to wipe your ARSE with. *Ibid.* (1726), *Dictionary*. ARSV-VERSEY, topsy-turvy, preposterously, perversely, without order.

1746. VANBRUGH, *Provoked Husband*, ii. Your mayster may KISS MY ARSE.

1747. JONSON, *Highw. and Pyrates*, 254. He came off with crying carrots and turnips, a term which rogues use for whipping AT THE CART'S ARSE.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Roderick Random*, vii. A canting scoundrel, who has crept into business by his hypocrisy, and KISSING THE A—SE of everybody. *Ibid.*, xxxii. If I durst use such a vulgar idiom . . . the nation did HANG AN ARSE at its disappointment. *Ibid.* (1748), *Rod. Random*, lxv. My lads, I'm told you HANG AN ARSE. *Ibid.* (1751), *Peregrine Pickle*, lxxxvii. She . . . applied her hand to THAT PART which was the last of her that disappeared, inviting the company TO KISS it, by one of its coarsest denominations. *Ibid.*, iii. That celebrated English ditty, the burden of which begins with, *The pigs they lie with their A—ES bare*.

1750. W. ELLIS, *Mod. Husband*, v. 1. 11. [Lay the sheaves] . . . close together, with their ARSELS outwards.

1768. ROSS, *Heleneore*, 43. Then Lindy to stand up began to try; But—he fell ARSELINS back.

1774. BRIDGES, *Homer Burlesque*, 4. And kick your — till kicking's good. *Ibid.*, 6. For if you hang an A—the least. *Ibid.*, 14. My resolution still is, To bid you KISS MY —, Achilles.

1774. GOLDSMITH, *Nat. Hist.*, II. vii. vii. 217. Our sailors . . . give these birds [penguins] the very homely but expressive name of ARSE-FEET.

1780. TOMLINSON, *Slang Pastoral*, 2. My ARSE HANGS behind me as heavy as lead.

d. 1796. [BURNS, *Merry Muses* (c. 1800), 15. 'Old Song revised.']. I loe my Donald's tartans weel His naked ARSE and a' that. *Ibid.*, 6. Gif you wad be strang, and wish to live lang Dance less wi' your ARSE to the kipples, young man. *Ibid.*, 99-100. An' he be grippit her fast by THE GUSSET OF HER ARSE.

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 25. Just like so many pigs of lead, Away they went, A . . . E overhead. *Ibid.*, 59. As to finding rags or clouts, To make A—CASES, I've my doubts. *Ibid.*, 82. And then he with vacant stare, Cried out, 'By gum, my . . . is bare!'

1877. PEACOCK, *Linc. Glass.*, ARSERD . . . 'Go ARSERDS, cousin Edward, go ARSERDS.'

1880. R. HOLLAND, *Old Farming Words*, 2]. In Cheshire the stalk-end of a potato [is called] the ARSE-END of a tater.

ARST, verb. (vulgar).—'Asked.'

ARTER, adv., prep., etc. (vulgar).—'After.'

ARTESIAN, subs. (Australian).—A Gippsland (Victoria) brew of beer: manufactured with water obtained from an artesian well at Sale — hence ARTESIAN (generic) = colonial beer: see CASCADE.

ARTFUL DODGER, subs. (rhyming).

—1. A lodger.

2. (thieves'). — An expert thief: also see quot. [The ARTFUL DODGER, a character in Dickens' *Oliver Twist*.]

1881. *New York Slang Dict.* ARTFUL dodgers, fellows who dare not sleep twice in the same place for fear of arrest.

ARTHUR. KING (or PRINCE) ARTHUR, subs. phr. (old).—See quot. 1785 and cf. AMBASSADOR.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Peregrine Pickle*, xvi. Acting the comedy of PRINCE ARTHUR, and other pantomimes as they are commonly exhibited at sea.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. KING ARTHUR. A sailor's game. When near the line, or in a hot latitude, a man who is to represent King Arthur, is ridiculously dressed, having a large wig made out of oakum, or some old swabs. He is seated on the side, or over a large vessel of water, and every person in turn is ceremoniously introduced to him, and has to pour a bucket of water over him, crying out, 'Hail, King Arthur!' If during the ceremony the person introduced laughs or smiles (to which his majesty endeavours to excite him by all sorts of ridiculous gesticulations), he changes places with, and then becomes King Arthur, till relieved by some brother tar who has as little command over his muscles as himself.

**ARTICHOKE**, *subs.* (old).—1. A term of contempt.

c. 1600. *DAY, Beggar Bednall Green*, iii. 2. Let him alone, you cross-legg'd HARTICOAK.

2. (American).—A foundered whore: *see TART*.

3. (old).—A hanging: also HEARTY CHOAK (GROSE); whence TO HAVE AN ARTICHOKE AND CAPER SAUCE FOR BREAKFAST = to be hanged.

**ARTICLE**, *subs.* (old).—1. A woman: *e.g.* a prime article = (GROSE) a handsome girl, ‘a hell of a goer’ (*Lex. Bal.*).

1857. *TROLLOPE, Three Clerks*, xxxi. ‘She'd never have done for you, you know; and she's the very ARTICLE for such a man as Peppermint.’

2. (common).—A mildly contemptuous or sarcastic address: usually with such adjectives as ‘pretty,’ ‘nice,’ etc. Thus, ‘You're a pretty ARTICLE’ = ‘You're a BEAUTY’ (*q.v.*); ‘What sort of an ARTICLE do you think you are?’ = ‘What's your name when out for a walk?’ Also (HALLIWELL) ‘of a wretched animal.’

1843. *DICKENS, Martin Chuzzlewit*, xxvi. ‘You're a nice ARTICLE, to turn sulky on first coming home! ’

3. (old).—In *pl.* = a suit of clothes (GROSE).

**ARTICLE OF VIRTUE**, *subs. phr.* (popular).—A virgin. [A play upon ‘virtue,’ and *virtu*.]

**ARTILLERYMAN**, *subs.* (common).—A drunkard: *cf.* CANON = drunk, and *see* Lushington.

**ARTIST**, *subs.* (American thieves’).—An adroit rogue; a skilful gamester.—*N. Y.S.D.*

**AS.** *See MAKE.*

**ASIA MINOR**, *subs. phr.* (popular).—The Kensington and Bayswater district. [Many Anglo-Indians reside in this locality. The nickname is double-barrelled, for the district is also the headquarters of the Greek community in the metropolis.] Cf. NEW JERUSALEM, BLACK HOLE, etc.

1888. *Daily News*, 9 Feb., 2. 5. Notting-hill . . . is the centre of a district where Indians in the British metropolis mostly congregate, . . . ASIA MINOR [as] it is sometimes called.

**ASINEGO**, *subs.* (old).—1. ‘A little ass’; hence (2) a fool, DONKEY (*q.v.*), DUFFRR (*q.v.*).

1606. *SHAKSPEARE, Troilus and Cressida*, ii. 1. 49. Thou hast no more brains than I have in my elbows; an ASSINEGO may tutor thee.

1616. *BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, Scornful Lady*, ii. 1. All this would be forsworn, and I again an ASINEGO, as your sister left me.

1635. *JONSON, Expost. with Inigo Jones*, 19. Or are you so ambitious 'bove your peers, You'd be an ASS-INIGO by your ears.

1714. *MILBOURNE, Traitor's Rew.* Pref. These ASINEGOES are like those miserable comforters Job's friends.

**ASK**, *verb.* (old literary: now colloquial).—To proclaim in church: as a marriage; literally to ask for (or the) banns thereto. Formerly also of stray cattle, etc. [O.E.D.: ‘The recognised expression is now to “publish” the banns; but “ask” is the historical word.’] Whence ASKING = an announcement in church of intended marriage.

1461-73. *Paston Letters*, III. 46. To AXE [a couple] in chyrche.

1523. FITZHERBERT, *Surveying*, 28b. They ought to ASKE them [stray cattle] thre sondayes in thre or four next parysse churches and also crye them thre tymes in thre the next market townes.

1606. *Wily Begwild* [DOSPEL], *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), ix. 304. We must be ASKED in church next Sunday.

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, 'Westminster' (1811), ii. 105. His head was ASK'D but never married to the English Crown.

1727-51. *Chambers' Ency.*, s.v. BANNS. The publication of banns (popularly called ASKING in the church).

1824. BYRON, *Juan*, xvi. lxxxviii. At the third ASKING . . . he started.

1841. ORDERSON, *Creoleana*, ii. 14. The fair sex . . . preferring to be ASKED in church.

1865. B. BRIERLY, *Irkdale*, II. 187. The 'ASKINGS' had been called over three consecutive Sundays.

ASK ANOTHER, *phr.* (common). —A jesting or contemptuous retort to a question that one cannot, will not, or ought not, to answer: also ASK BOGY (*q.v.*).

ASKEW, *subs.* (Old Cant). —A cup: see SKEW (HARMAN, 1567).

ASPASIA, *subs.* (common). —A harlot: see quot. 1892 and TART.

1809. MATY [RIESBECK'S *Trav. Germ.*, xx.]. Many an ASPASIA capable of being classed in the same line with her immortal prototype.

1832. LYTTON, *Godolphin*, xx. Miss Vernon is another ASPASIA, I hear.

1854. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xxxi. He 'ranged himself, as the French is, shortly before his marriage, just like any other young bachelor; took leave of Phryne and ASPASIE in the coulisses, and proposed to devote himself henceforth to his charming young wife.

1886. M'CARTHY and CAMPB. PRAED., iii. Your really great women—the Sapphos, the ASPASIAS.

1892. FENNELL, *Stanford Dict.*, s.v. ASPASIA, name of one of the celebrated courtesans of Athens, called Hetereae (*ητεραι*), many of whom were highly accomplished and were faithful to one lover. . . . Representative of a fascinating courtesan, and more rarely, of an accomplished woman.

ASPEN-LEAF, *subs. phr.* (old). — The tongue.

1532. MORE, *Confut. Barnes*, viii. [Works, 769. 1]. For if they myghte be suffered to begin ones in the congregacion to fal in disputing, those ASPEN-LEAVES of theirs would never leave waggyng.

1567. T. HOWELL, *Poems* (1879), 150. In womens mindes: are diuers winds, which stir their ASPIN TUNGE, to prate and chat.

ASPERMING-TOOL, *subs. phr.* (venery). —The penis: see PRICK (URQUHART).

ASS, *subs.* (common). —Generic for stupidity, clumsiness, and ignorance. Hence (1) a fool: see BUFFLE. [O.E.D. : now disused in polite literature and speech.] Also ASSHEAD: whence ASS-HEADED=stupid; and ASSHEAD-EDNESS=folly. To MAKE AN ASS OF=to stultify; TO MAKE AN ASS OF ONESELF=to play the fool; YOUR ASS-SHIP (a mock title: cf. lordship). Also PROVERBS AND PROVERBAL SAYINGS: 'When a fool is made a bishop then a horned ASS is born therein' (1400); 'Perhaps thy ASS can tell thee what thou knowest not' (NASH); 'To wrangle for an ASS's shadow' (THYNNE); 'Go sell an ASS' (TOPSELL: 'a charge of blockishness to a dull scholar'). 'Angry as an ASS with a squib in his breech' (COTgrave); 'Honey is not for an ASS's mouth' (SHELTON); 'An ASS laden with gold will go lightly

uphill' (SHELTON); 'ASSES have ears as well as pitchers' (MIDDLETON); 'He will act the ASS's part to get some bran' (URQUHART); 'An ASS in a lion's skin' (ADDISON); 'An unlettered king is a crowned ASS' (FREEMAN); to plough with ox and ASS=to use incongruous means; 'The ASS waggeth his ears' (COOPER, 1563): 'a proverbe applied to theim, whiche, although they lacke learnyng, yet will they babble and make a countenaunce, as if they knewe somewhat'.

1532. MORE, *Confut. Barnes*, viii. Thys felowes folishe apishenesse and al hys ASSEHEDED exclamacionis.

1546. BECON, *Early Writings* [Parker Soc.]. [A fool is called] ASSHEAD.

1550. BALE, *Apology*, 6r. O ab-solute ASS-HEADS . . . and wytlesse ydyote.

1578. LVTE, *Dodoens*, 348. Land-leapers, roges, and ignorant ASSES.

1580. HAY any Work, 36. As verye an ASSEHEAD as John Catercap.

1590. SHAKESPEARE, *Mid. Night's Dream*, iii. 1. 124. This is to make an ASS of me, to fright me if they could. *Ibid.* (1598), *Merry Wives*, i. 1. 176. I am not altogether an ASS. *Ibid.* (1601), *Twelfth Night*, v. 1. 212. An ASSEHEAD and a coxcombe.

1600. DOULAND, *Ornithop. Micro-logus*, 65. ASSE-HEADED ignorance.

1610. HEALEY, *City of God*, 694. Yet had he his humane reason still, as Apuleius had in his ASS-SHIP.

1611. CHAPMAN, *Mayday*, iv. 4. I shall imagine still I am DRIVING AN OX AND AN ASS before me.

1617. MINSHEW, *Dict.*, s.v. ASSE-HEADDINESSE or blockishnesse.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, II. III. ii. A nobleman . . . a proud fool, an arrant ASS.

1633. FORD, *Love's Sacrifice*, ii. 2. If this be not a fit of some violent affection, I am an ASS in understanding.

1717. POPE, *Lett. to Hon. R. Digby*. They think our Doctors ASSES to them.

1724. RAMSAY, *Tea-table Misc.*, 14. The Ward is rul'd by Asses, And the Wise are sway'd by clink.

1729. COOKE, *Tales*, 87. Ended thus his Ass-SHIP's Reign.

1828. SCOTT, *Fair Maid*, i. 39. I am but an ASS in the trick of bringing about such discourse.

1843. LEVER, *Jack Hinton*, iv. Lord Dudley de Vere, the most confounded puppy, and the emptiest ASS.

1865. DICKENS, *Our Mutual Friend* (C. D. ed.), 6. As to Twemlow . . . he considers the large man an offensive ASS.

1865. TROLLOPE, *Belfton Estate*, xx. Don't make such an ASS of yourself.

1866. FRASER'S MAG., 284. i. They could not be deprived of the common right of Englishmen to MAKE ASSES OF THEMSELVES if they liked it.

2. (printers'). — A compositor: used by pressmen: the tit-for-tat=PIG (q.v.): also DONKEY: Fr. mulet.

**ASSASSIN**, *subs.* (old). — See quot. [Century: 'with allusion to its "killing" effect.']

1604. LADIES' DICT. [Century]. A breast-knot, or similar decoration worn in front.

**ASSAYES (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (military). — The 2nd battalion (late 74th) Highland Light Infantry: for distinction at Assaye when 'every officer present, save one, was killed or wounded, and the battalion was reduced to a mere wreck' (FARMER, *Mil. Forces of Gt. and Greater Britain*).

**ASSES' BRIDGE (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (common). — The fifth proposition in the First Book of Euclid's *Elements*; the *pons asinorum*.

c. 1780. EPIGRAM. If this be rightly called the BRIDGE OF ASSES, He's not the fool that sticks, but he that passes.

1860. ALL YEAR ROUND, 560. He never crossed THE ASS'S BRIDGE.

**ASSIG.**, *subs.* (old).—An 'assignation' (B. E. and GROSE).

**ASSMANSHIP** (OR **ASSWOMANSHIP**), *subs.* (colloquial).—The art of donkey-riding: on the model of *horsemanship*.

1800. SOUTHEY, *Letters* (1856), I. 119. Edith has made a great proficiency in ASS-WOMANSHIP.

1882. *Punch*, 24 June. They witch the world with noble ASSMANSHIP.

**ASTE**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—Money: generic: *see RHINO* (NARES).

1612. *Passenger of Benvenuto*. These companions, who . . . carry the impression and marke of the pillerie galley, and of the halter, they call the purse a leafe, and a fleece; money, cuckoos, and ASTE, and crowns.

**ASTRONOMER**, *subs.* (old).—A horse with a high carriage of the head; a STAR-GAZER (*q.v.*).

**AT.** *See ALL*; BREECHES; HAND; HAVE; PICKPURSE; REST; THAT; YOU.

**ATHANASIAN WENCH**, *subs. phr.* (old).—'A forward girl, ready to oblige every man that shall ask her' (GROSE); a QUICUNQUE VULT (*q.v.*): *see TART*.

**ATHENÆUM**, *subs.* (venery).—The penis: *see PRICK*.

**ATHENS**. THE MODERN ATHENS, *subs. phr.* (literary).—I. Edinburgh; and (2) Boston, Mass. (also THE ATHENS OF AMERICA).

**ATLANTIC-RANGER**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A herring; a SEA-ROVER (*q.v.*): *see GLASGOW MAGISTRATE*.

1883. *Good Words*, 378. Peas-pudding, and hard-boiled eggs, rubbing shoulders, as it were, with ATLANTIC RANGERS.

**ATKINS**. *See TOMMY ATKINS*.

**ATOMY**, *subs.* (old).—I. An anatomy; a 'specimen'; a skeleton; also OTAMY: whence (2) a very lean person; a walking skeleton.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Henry IV*, v. 4. 33. *Host.* Thou ATOMY, thou! *Dot.* Come, you thin thing, come, you rascal.

1681. KNOX, *Hist. Ceylon*, 124. Consumed to an ATOMY, having nothing left but skin to cover his bones.

1728. GAV, *Beggar's Opera*, ii. 1. He is among the OTAMYS at Surgeon's Hall.

1755. SMOLLETT, *Quixote* (1803), IV. 148. My bones . . . will be taken up smooth, and white and bare as an ATOM.

1822. SCOTT, *The Fortunes of Nigel*, iii. 'He was an ATOMY when he came up from the North, and . . . died . . . at twenty stone weight.'

1823. COOPER, *Pioneer*, xiii. His sides . . . looked just like an ATOMY, ribs and all.

1848. DICKENS, *Dombey*, 86. Withered ATOMIES of teaspoons.

1864. MRS. LLOYD, *Ladies Polcarrow*, 149. We should have wasted to ATOMIES if we had stayed in that terrible bad place any longer.

1866. SALA, *Gaslight and Daylight*, ix. A miserable little ATOMY, more deformed, more diminutive, more mutilated than any beggar in a bowl.

1884. *Cornhill Magazine*, May, 478. Scarecrow and ATOMY, what next will you call me? Yet you want to marry me!

1886. BRADDON, *Mohawks*, xxii. 'How lovely his young wife looks to-night; lovely enough to keep that poor old ATOMY in torment.'

2. (old).—A diminutive person; a pigmy.

1591. SHAKSPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, iv. i. 57. Queen Mab . . . the fairies' midwife ; and she comes In shape no bigger than an agate-stone On the forefinger of an alderman, Drawn with a team of little ATOMIES, Athwart men's noses as they fall asleep. *Ibid.* (1600), *As You Like It*, iii. 5. That eyes that are the frailst and softest things Who shut their coward gates on ATOMIES Should be call'd tyrants, butchers, murderers.

1599. DAVIES, *Immort. of Soul*, 35. Epicures make them swarms of ATOMIES.

1625. DONNE, *Anat. of the World*, i. 200. And freely men confess that this world's spent, When in the planets and the firmament They seek so many new; they see that this Is crumbled out again t' his ATOMIES.

3. (American thieves'). — An empty-headed person.

**ATROCITY**, *subs.* (colloquial). — Anybody or anything grievously below the ordinary standard or out of the common : *e.g.*, a bad blunder, a flagrant violator of good taste, a very weak pun, etc. Hence ATROCIOUS, *adj.* = shockingly bad, execrable, and as *adv.* = excessively.

1831. ALFORD [*Life* (1873), 67]. The letter had an ATROCIOUSLY long sentence in it.

1878. HATTON, *Corr. Pref.*, 4. Their diction and their spelling and the fearful ATROCITIES committed in the latter.

**ATTACK**, *subs.* (colloquial). — A commencement of operations : as (jocularly) upon dinner, a problem, correspondence, etc. Also as *verb*.

1812. COMBE, *Picturesque*, xvii. 62. The Doctor then . . . pronounced the grace . . . The fierce ATTACK was soon begun.

1849. THACKERAY, *Pendennis*, i. It was a double letter, and the Major commenced perusing the envelope before he ATTACKED the inner epistle.

**ATTEMPT**, *verb.* (euphemistic). — To APPROACH (*q.v.*) a woman ; to attack the chastity ; TO TRY (*q.v.*). Hence ATTEMPTER, ATTEMPTABLE, and other derivatives.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Lucrece*, 491. I see what crosses my ATTEMPT will bring. *Ibid.* (1603), *Meas. for Meas.*, iii. 1. 207. The maid will I frame and make fit for his ATTEMPT. *Ibid.* (1611), i. 4. 65. This gentleman . . . vouching his to be . . . less ATTEMPTABLE than any of the rarest of our ladies in France. *Ibid.*, 122. I durst ATTEMPT . . . any lady in the world.

1607. TOPSELL, *Four-footed Beasts*, 3. Apes that ATTEMPT women.

1611. GUILLIM, *Heraldry*, III. vii. (1660), 136. The Judges . . . who ATTEMPTED Susanna.

1642. MILTON, *Apol. Smec.* (*Works* (1851), 271). To secure and protect the weaknesse of any ATTEMPTED chastity.

1741. RICHARDSON, *Pamela* (1824), i. xviii. 29. When one of our sex finds she is ATTEMPTED. *Ibid.* (1748), *Clarissa*, iii. 273. It would be a miracle if she stood such an ATTEMPTER.

**ATTIC**, *subs.* (common). — 1. The head ; the brain ; the UPPER STOREY (*q.v.*).

1870. [ALFORD, *Life* (1873), 467]. Tolerably well all day, but the noise in the ATTIC unremoved.

2. (venery). — The female pudendum : see MONOSYLLABLE.

**ATTIC-SALT (STYLE or WIT)**, *subs.* *phr.* (literary). — Well - turned phrases spiced with refined and delicate humour.

1633. Batt. Lutzen [*Harl. Misc.*, iv. 185]. Written in a STILE so ATTICK . . . that it may well be called the French Tacitus.

1738. POPE, *Epil.*, Sat. ii. 83. While Roman Spirit charms, and ATTIC WIT.

1748. DYCHE, *Dictionary* (5 ed.). In *Philology*, we say ATTIC-SALT, for a delicate, poignant kind of wit and humour after the *Athenian* manner, who were particular in this way.

1760. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, v. iii. Triumph swam in my father's eyes, at the repartee: the ATTIC SALT brought water into them.

1779. SHERIDAN, *Critic*, i. 2. I . . . only add—characters strongly drawn—fund of genuine humour—mine of invention—neat dialogue—ATTIC-SALT.

1848. HANNAY, *King Dobbs*, ix. 129 (1856). 'What? is it unlucky to spill ATTIC-SALT, as well as the ordinary kind?'

ATTEBOROUGH, *subs.* (American). — Pinchbeck ; BRUMMAGEM (*q.v.*). [Attleborough is celebrated for its manufacture of trashy jewelry.]

ATTORNEY, *subs.* (old colloquial).— I. A knave ; a swindler: an ancient and still general reproach. Whence ATTORNEYDOM and ATTORNEYISM (in contempt or abuse).

1732. POPE, *Moral Essays*, III. 274. Vile ATTORNEYS, now an useless race.

c. 1784. JOHNSON [BOSWELL, *Life*, i. 385]. Johnson observed that 'he did not care to speak ill of any man behind his back, but he believed the gentleman was an ATTORNEY.'

1837. CARLVLE, *French Rev.*, III. vii. 5. ATTORNIES and Law-Beagles which hunt ravenous on this Earth. *Ibid.*, 258. Vanish, then, thou rat-eyed Incarnation of ATTORNEYISM. *Ibid.* (1864), *Fred. the Great*, IV. 2. Instinctively abhorrent of ATTORNEYISM and the swindler element.

1881. *Standard*, 22 Aug., 5. 2. The narrow and captious argument of ATTORNEYDOM.

1882. *Society*, 7 Oct., 16. 2. A strong element of what Mr. John Bright has been pleased to call ATTORNEYDOM.

1884. *Sat. Rev.*, 28 June, 835. 2. The peculiarity, however, of that kind of cleverness which . . . is called ATTORNEYISM, is that it frequently overreaches itself.

2. (common).—A drumstick of goose, or turkey, grilled and devilled : *cf.* DEVIL.

1828. GRIFFIN, *Collegians*, xiii. 'I love a plain beef steak before a grilled ATTORNEY.'

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEVIL. *See* DEVIL.

AUCTIONEER. TO TIP (or GIVE) THE AUCTIONEER, *verb. phr.* (pugilists').—To knock a man down: Tom Sayers' right hand was nicknamed THE AUCTIONEER.

1863. SALA, *Breakfast in Bed*, I. 4 (1864). And who, in return for a craven blow, can DELIVER THE AUCTIONEER well over the face and eyes.

AUDIT-ALE (or AUDIT), *subs. phr.* (Univ.).—A special brew of ale: orig. for use on audit days.

1823. BYRON, *Age of Bronze*, xiv. But where is now the goodly AUDIT-ALE.

1837. BARAM, *Ing. Legends (Lay of S. Dunstan)*. The 'Trinity AUDIT ALE' is not come-at-able, As I've found to my great grief when dining at that table.

1872. OULDA, *Gen. Matchm.*, 34. Are you going to smoke and drink AUDIT on that sofa all day?

1886. TREVELYAN, *Life of Macaulay* (1884), iv. 127. A glass of the AUDIT ALE, which reminded him that he was still a fellow of Trinity.

AUDLEY. *See* JOHN AUDLEY.

AUFE. *See* OAF.

AUGER, *subs.* (American thieves). —A prosy talker ; a BORE (*q.v.*).

AUGHT, *subs.* (vulgar).—A common illiteracy for 'naught,' the cipher '0.'

AULD HORNIE, *subs. phr.* (Scots). —I. The Devil : *see* BLACK-SPY.

2. (venery).—The *penis* : *see* PRICK.

AULD REEKIE, *subs. phr.* (Scots).—The Old Town, 'Edinburgh : *i.e.* Old Smoky.'

1806. PITMAN [SHARPE, *Correspondence* (1888), i. 271]. We are within two hours-and-a-half of AULD REEKY.

1816. SCOTT, *Antiquary*, vi. And what news do you bring us from Edinburgh . . . how wags the world in AULD REEKIE? *Ibid.* (1818), *Heart of Midlothian*, xi. My best service to all my old friends at and about AULD REEKIE.

1889. *Colonies and India*, 24 July, 10. i. The Australasian Colony in AULD REEKIE is prospering apace.

**AULY AULY**, *subs. phr.* (Win. Coll.: obsolete).—A game played in ‘Grass Court’ on Saturday afternoons after chapel. An india-rubber ball was thrown one to another, and everybody was obliged to join in. The game, though in vogue in 1830, was not played as late as 1845.

**AUMBES-ACE.** *See AMES-ACE.*

**AUNT**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. A bawd; a harlot (B. E. and GROSE): hence (old sayings) ‘my AUNT will feed me’=(B. E.) ‘the bawd will find me in meat’; ‘She is one of my AUNTS that made my uncle go a-begging (or that my uncle never got any good of).’

1604. SHAKESPEARE, *Winter’s Tale*, iv. 2. Summer songs for me and my AUNTS, While we lie tumbling in the hay.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, i. 3. *Prep.* May be she’s gone to Brainsford. *May.* Inquire at one of mine AUNTS. *Ibid.*, v. i. *Reath.* Ye told me, sir, she was your kinswoman. *May.* Right, one of mine AUNTS.

1607. MIDDLETON, *Mich. Term.*, iii. 1. She demanded of me whether I was your worship’s AUNT or no. Out, out, out!

1608. MIDDLETON, *Trick to Catch the Old One*, ii. i. Was it not then better bestowed upon his uncle than upon one of his AUNTS?—I need not say bawd, for everyone knows what AUNT stands for in the last translation.

[?]. [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), iii. 260.] To call you one o’ mine AUNTS, sister, were as good as to call you arrant whore.

[?]. [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), vii. 410.] Naming to him one of my AUNTS, a widow by Fleetditch, her name is Mistress Gray, and keeps divers gentle-women lodgers.

1663. KILLIGREW, *Parson’s Wedding*, iii. i. Yes, and follow her, like one of my AUNTS of the suburbs.

1668. LESTRANGE, *Quevedo* (1778), 133. They . . . gallant the Wife to the Park . . . where forty to one . . . they stumble upon an AUNT . . . or some such Reverend Goer-between.

1678. DRYDEN, *Kind Keeper*, i. 1. The easiest Fool I ever knew, next my NAUNT of Fairies in the *Ackymist*.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. AUNT . . . a title of eminence for the senior dells, who serve for instructresses, midwives, etc., for the dells.

2. (old and still colloquial, esp. in U.S.A.).—An endearment or familiar address; also AUNTY: spec. (1), in nursery talk, a female ‘friend of the family’; and (2) a matronly woman: hence AUNT-HOOD: *cf.* UNCLE.

1592. *Mid. Night’s Dream*, ii. 1. The wisest AUNT telling the saddest tale.

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*, ii. i. *Over.* Let us drink, boy, with my love, thy AUNT here . . . Ale for thine AUNT, boy.

1861. STOWE, *Pearl of Orr’s Island*, 21. These universally useful persons receive among us the title of AUNT by a sort of general consent . . . They are nobody’s AUNTS in particular, but AUNTS to human nature generally.

1862. CRAIK, *Domestic Stories*, 373. This sort of universal AUNTHOOD to the whole neighbourhood was by no means disagreeable to Miss Milly.

1883. *Harper’s Mag.*, Oct., 728. 2. The negro no longer submits with grace to be called ‘uncle’ and ‘aunty’ as of yore.

3. (Oxford and Cambridge: obsolete).—The sister university.

1655. FULLER, *Church Hist.*, ii. i. 308. The Sons of our AUNT are loth to consent that one who was taught Cambridge, should teach in Oxford.

1701. PERVS, *Corr.*, 403. An humble present of mine, though a Cambridge man, to my dear AUNT, the University of Oxford.

**PHRASES.** 'If my AUNT had been my uncle what would have happened then?' (a retort on inconsequent talk); to go and see one's AUNT = to go to the W.C. (see MRS. JONES).

1834. THOMPSON, *Exerc.* (1842), III. 45, note. What might have happened afterwards, is only known to those who can tell WHAT WOULD HAVE COME TO PASS IF YOUR AUNT HAD BEEN YOUR UNCLE.

**AUNT MARIA**, *subs. phr.* (venery). —The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

**AUNT SALLY**, *subs. phr.* (common). —A game common to race-courses and fairs: a wooden head is mounted on a pole to form a target; in the mouth is placed a clay pipe, which the player, standing at twenty or thirty yards, tries to smash.

[1860. *Notes and Queries*, 2 S. x. 117. AUNT SALLY is the heroine of a popular negro melody, in which the old lady meets with several ludicrous adventures.]

1861. *Times*, 'Derby Day.' AUNT SALLY . . . is rather overdone than otherwise.

1866. SALA, *Gaslight and Daylight*, i. They will . . . create disturbances on the course, and among the 'sticks' and AUNT SALLIES.

1883. *Punch*, 2 June, 264. i. The average number of 'chucks' at cocoa-nuts before achieving success is six, and of 'shies' at AUNT SALLY, four.

1884. *Pall Mall Gas.*, 15 Aug., 4. i. AUNT SALLIES and skittles for those who prefer such attractions.

**Au RESERVOIR!** *intj. phr.* (common). —*Au revoir.*

**AURUM POTABILE**, *subs. phr.* (Old Cant). — That is, 'drinkable gold'; see quots.

1644. QUARLES, *Judgment and Mercy*, 86. Poverty . . . is a sickness very catching . . . The best cordial is AURUM POTABILE.

1652. ASHMOLE, *Theat. Chem. Brit.*, 442. And then the golden oyle called AURUM-POTABILE, A medicine most meravelous to preserve mans health.

1653. EVELYN, *Diary*, 27 June. Monsr. Roupel sent me a small phial of his AURUM POTABILE, with a letter shewing the way of administering it and y<sup>e</sup> stupendous cures it hath done at Paris.

1678. PHILLIPS, *Dict.*, s.v. AURUM POTABILE, a medicine made of the body of gold itself, totally reduced, without corrosive, into a blood-red, gummie, or honey-like substance.

1708. KERSY, *Dict.* AURUM POTABILE. Gold made liquid, or fit to be drunk; or some rich Cordial Liquor, with pieces of Leaf-gold in it.

**AUSTRALIAN FLAG**, *subs. phr.* (Australian). —A rucked-up shirt-tail.

**AUSTRALIAN GRIP**, *subs. phr.* (Australian). —A hearty hand-shake.

**AUTEM** (**AUTUM**, **AUTOM**, or **ANTEM**), *subs.* (Old Cant). —A church (HARMAN, (B. E., GROSE, *et passim*). As *adj.* = married; also in numerous combinations, thus: AUTEM-BAWLER (-CACKLER, -JET or -PRICKBAR) = a parson: spec. of Dissenters; AUTEM-CACKLE TUB = (1) a dissenting meeting-house, (2) a pulpit; AUTEM-COVE = a married man; AUTEM-DIPPER (or -DIVER) = (1) a Baptist, (2) a thief working churches or conventicles, and (3) an overseer or guardian of the poor; AUTEM-GOGGLER = 'a pretended French prophet' (GROSE); AUTEM-MORT (see quots. 1567 and c. 1696); AUTEM-QUAVER = a Quaker; AUTEM-QUAVER TUB = a Quaker's meeting-house.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat* (1814), 49. These AUTEM MORTES be maried wemen, . . . they be as chaste as a cowe I have, that goeth to bull eury moone, with what bull she careth not. These walke most times from their husbands compayne a moneth and more to gether, being associate with another as honest as her selfe. These wyll pylfar clothes of hedges; some of them go with children of ten or xii years of age; yf tyme and place serue for their purpose, they will send them into some house, at the window, to steale and robbe, which they call in their language, Milling of the ken; and wil go with wallets on their shoulders, and stakes at their backes.

1586. HARRISON, *Desc. England*, 184.

1592. GREENE, *Quip*, [Works, ix. 283]. The pedler as bad or rather worse, walketh the country with his docksey at the least, if he have not two, his mortes dells, and AUTEM MORTIS.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Mar-kall*, 7 (H. Club's Reprint, 1874). They could not quietly take their rest in the night, nor keepe his AUTEM, or doxie sole vnto himselfe.

1641. BROME, *Jovial Crew* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1890), 25]. The AUTUM-MORT finds better sport In bawling than in nigling.

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. AUTEM MORT, c. a Married-woman, also the Twenty fourth Order of the Canting Tribe, Travelling, Begging (and often Stealing) about the Country, with one Child in Arms another on Back, and (sometimes) leading a third in the Hand.

1827. LYTTON, *Pelham*. Job ex-plained . . . his wish to pacify Dawson's conscience by dressing up one of the pals . . . as an AUTEM BAWLER, and so obtain-ing him the benefit of the clergy without endangering the gang by his confession.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, III. v. Morts, AUTEM-MORTS, walking morts, dells, doxies, with all the shades and grades of the canting crew, were assembled.

1859. MATSELL, *Vocabulum*, 'A Hundred Stretches Hence.' 'Oh! where will be the culs of the bing A hundred stretches hence? The AUTUMN-CACKLERS, AUTUMN-COVES. . . .

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 260. A Jew was selling cocoa-nut, when the AUTEM-CACKLER . . . wanted to impart to the Israelite the sin he committed in carrying on his vocation on such a day [Sunday].

1901. NISBET, *Hermes*, 268. AUTEM-DIVER.

**AUTHOR-BAITING**, *subs. phr.* (theatrical). — Calling a playwright before the curtain to subject him to annoyance—yelling, hooting, bellowing, etc.

**AVAST**, *intj.* (nautical). — Hold! Stop! Stay!

1681. OTWAY, *Soldiers' Fortune*, iv. i. Hoa up, hoa up; so AVAST there, sir.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, xli. 'AVAST there, friend: none of your tricks upon travellers.' *Ibid.* (1751), *Peregrine Pickle*, xvii. 'And upon this scrap of paper—no, AVAST — that's my discharge from the parish.'

1883. CLARK RUSSELL, *Sailor's Language*, s.v. AVAST. An order to stop hauling or heaving; pronounced 'vast. A word going out of fashion as used among seamen, who would formerly say 'Vast there!' meaning, Stop that talking. It is now confined to ship's work. *Ibid.* (1884), *Jack's Courtship*, xiv. But AVAST now! we've had enough of philosophising.

**AVERING**, *subs. (old)*. — See quot.

1695. KENNEDY, *Lans. MS.*, 1033. When a beggling boy strips himself and goes naked into a town with a fals story of being cold, and stript, to move compassion and get better cloaths, this is call'd AVER-ING, and to goe a AVERING.

**AVOIRDUPois**, *subs. (colloquial)*. — Excess of flesh; fat.

**AVOIRDUPois-LAY**, *subs. phr. (Old Cant)*. — 'Stealing brass weights off the counters of shops' (GROSE).

**AVUNCULAR**, *adj. (common)*. — Humorously employed in various combinations: *e.g.* AVUNCULAR RELATION = a pawnbroker; an UNCLE (*q.v.*); AVUNCULAR LIFE = pawnbroking. Also AVUNCULAR-GIG, TO AVUNCULIZE (= to act as an uncle), etc., etc.

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, 'Hants,' i. 414. Seeing he was sister's son to black-mouth'd Sanders, it is much that he doth not more AVUNCULIZE in his bitterness against Protestants.

1831. LANDOR, *Rupert* [Works (1846), II. 571]. Love . . . paternal or AVUNCULAR.

1854. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, v. Clive, in the AVUNCULAR gig, is driven over the downs to Brighton, to his maternal aunt there. *Ibid.*, xl. Clive had passed the AVUNCULAR BANKING-HOUSE in the city, without caring to face his relations there.

1859. SALA, *Gaslight and Daylight*, iii. 37. If you enter one of these pawnshops . . . you will observe these peculiarities in the internal economy of the AVUNCULAR LIFE.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 92. 'A Model Christmas.' (The poet detaches a blanket from his bed and despatches it to an AVUNCULAR RELATIVE).

**AWAKE**, *adv.* (old).—On the alert ; vigilant ; fully appreciative : *see* **FLY**.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. **AWAKE** . . . A thief will say to his accomplice on perceiving the person they are about to rob is aware of their intention, and upon his guard, *stow it*, the cove's **AWAKE**. To be awake to any scheme, deception or design, means generally to see through or comprehend it.

1813. AUSTEN, *Pride and Prejudice*, xi. As much **AWAKE** to the novelty of attention in that quarter as Elizabeth herself.

1821. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry* (DICKS), 6. *Jerry*. Yes, he's up, he's **AWAKE**, *he's fly-Ha! ha!*

1838. DICKENS, *N. Nickleby*, xxxix. If you hear the waiter coming, sir, shove it in your pocket and look out of the window. . . . 'I'm **AWAKE**, father,' replied the dutiful Wackford.

1879. FROUDE, *Caesar*, x. He was **AWAKE** to the dangers.

**AWAY**, *adv.* (colloquial).—**AWAY** (= forthwith, continuously) occurs in several colloquialisms, mostly imperative. Thus : **FIRE**

**AWAY** ! = Commence immediately! ; **SAY AWAY** ! = 'Spit it out' ; **PEG AWAY** ! = Keep going ; **RIGHT AWAY** ! = at once ; **'AWAY THE MARE'** ! = Adieu to care ! **Begone ! FAR-AND-AWAY** = altogether ; **'WHO CAN HOLD THAT WILL AWAY ?'** = 'Who can bind an unwilling tongue ?' **TO MISTAKE AWAY** = to pilfer and pretend mistake ; **AWAY BACK** = (1) long ago ; and (2) *see WAY-BACK*.

d. 1529. DUNBAR [quoted by GIFFORD]. And Prudence in my eir says ay, QUHV WAD YO HALD THAT WILL AWAY ?

1535. COVERDALE, *John*, xvi. 12. I have yet much to saye vnto you, but ye can not bear it **AWAY**.

c. 1540. *Doctor Double Ale*. **AWAY THE MARE**, quod Walis, I set not a whitinge By all their writing.

[?]. *MS. Corp. Christ. Coll. Cantab.*, 168. *Adew, swetcharre, Christe geve the care ! Adew to the, dewl ! AWAY THE MARE !*

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*, i. 1. *Over*. You will not let him go, brother, and lose him? *Cokes*. **WHO CAN HOLD THAT WILL AWAY ?** *Ibid.*, ii. 1. But your true trick, rascal, must be, to be ever busy, and **MISTAKE AWAY** the bottles and cans.

d. 1631. DONNE, *Satires*, v. Would it not anger a stoic . . . to see a pursuivant come in, and call all his clothes, copies, books, primers ; and all his plate, chalices ; and **MISTAKE** them **AWAY**, and ask a few for coming.

1676. SHADWELL, *Virtuoso*, ii. Come . . . **PULL AWAY** !

1842. DICKENS, *Amer. Notes*, ii. I now saw that **RIGHT AWAY** and directly meant the same thing.

1856. STOWE, *Dred*, i. Get the carriage out for me **RIGHT AWAY**.

1876. MACAULAY, *Life and Letters*, i. 235. I guess I must answer him **RIGHT** slick **AWAY**.

1883. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 27 Sep., 10. She told him to **REPORT AWAY**, that she was not afraid.

**AWFUL**, *adj.* (colloquial).—Monstrous: hence a generic intensive =great; long; exceedingly good, bad, pretty, etc. Thus an **AWFUL** (=very unpleasant) TIME; **AWFUL** (=side-splitting) FUN; **AWFULLY** (=uncommonly) JOLLY, etc. Also **PENNY-AWFUL** = a blood-curdling tale: *cf.* **DREADFUL SHOCKER**, **BLOOD-AND-GUTS STORY**, etc. As *adv.* = exceedingly, extremely.

1816. *LAMBERT, Canada and U.S.*, etc. [BARTLETT]. The country people of the New England States make use of many quaint expressions in their conversation. Every thing that creates surprise is **AWFUL** with them: 'What an **AWFUL** wind! **AWFUL** hole! **AWFUL** hill! **AWFUL** mouth! **AWFUL** nose!' etc.

18[?]. *Widow Bedott Papers* [BARTLETT]. I never thought she was so **AWFUL** handsome as some folks does.

1830. *THOMPSON, Exer.* (1842), i. 238. He will have made an **AWFULLY** bad choice if he comes to be sentenced to be hanged.

1843. *CARLTON, New Purchase*, i. 182. Pot-pie is the favorite dish, and woodsmen, sharp set, are **AWFUL** eaters.

1834. *LAMB, Gent. Giantess [Works]* (1871), 363. She is indeed, as the Americans would express it, something **AWFUL**.

1845. *FORD, Handbook to Spain*, i. 38. To what an **AWFUL** extent the Spanish peasant will consume garlic.

1850. *LANG, Wand. India*, 154. In the way of money-making . . . he is **AWFULLY** clever.

1865. *DOWNING, May-day in New York* [BARTLETT]. The practice of moving on the first day of May, with one half the New-Yorkers, is an **AWFUL** custom.

1870. *BRIDGMAN, R. Lynne*, ii. x. He writes an **AWFUL** scrawl.

1870. *Figaro*, 3 June. I like their face, though, to come here; it's **AWFULLY** good.

1873. *BROUGHTON, Nancy*, i. 26. What an **AWFUL** duffer I am.

1877. *PUNCH's Pocket Book* for 1878, 165. You should have come with us. It's too **AWFULLY** nice, as I told you I thought it would be.

1878. *BLACK, Green Pastures*, ii. 15. You'll be **AWFULLY** glad to get rid of me.

1878. *BRADDON, Cloven Foot*, vii. 'AWFULLY' was Miss Clare's chief laudatory adjective [*sic*]; her superlative form of praise was 'quite too **AWFULLY**', and when enthusiasm carried her beyond herself she called things 'nice.' 'Quite too **AWFULLY** nice,' was her maximum of **rapture**.

[?]. *PLANCHÉ, Good Woman in the Wood*. 'A poor widow and her orphan chicks Left without fixtures, in an **AWFUL** fix.'

1883. *HAWLEY SMART, At Fault*, iii. v. 'I'm **AWFUL** glad you two have made acquaintance.'

1883. *BRINSLEY RICHARDS, Seven Years at Eton*. The boy . . . was told that what he had done was an **AWFUL** chouse.

1889. *Illustrated Bits*, 13 July. 'The ham of the sandwich was **AWFULLY** tough.'

1898. *BOLDREWOOD, Robbery Under Arms*, xxiv. He was **AWFUL** shook on Madg; but she wouldn't look at him.

1899. *Answers*, 23 Feb., 205. 3. He's **AWFULLY** bad form—a regular cad, you know.

**AWKWARD**, *adv.* (conventional).—Pregnant: **LUMPY** (*q.v.*).

**AWKWARD-SQUAD**, *subs.* *phr.* (military and naval).—Recruits at drill.

**AWLS.** *See ALLS.*

**AX**, *verb.* (old).—This archaic form of *ask*, once and long literary, survives in **AX MY ARSE** (see *quot.* 1785) and dialectically. [O.E.D.: Ax, down to nearly 1600, was the regular literary form: it was supplanted in standard English by *ask*, originally the northern form]. Also **AX - MY - EYE** (cheap-jacks') = a **cu** fellow, a knowing blade.

c. 1380. *CHAUCER, Tale of Melibeus*. Seint Jame eck saith: If eny fellow have neede of sapiens, **AXE** it of God.

1461-73. *Paston Letters*, iii. 46.  
To AXE in chyrche.

1474. CAXTON, *Game of the Chesse*, iii. viii. He must nedes begge and AXE his breed.

1558. MURPHY, *Upholsterer*, i. An old crazy fool—AXING your pardon, ma'am, for calling your father so.

1785. GROSS, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. ASK. AX MY AX—SK. A common reply to any question: still deemed wit at sea, and formerly at Court, under the denomination of selling bargains.

1763. FOOTE, *Mayer of Garr.*, ii. 2. *Mrs Sneak*. Where is the puppy! *Sneak*. Yes, yes, she is AXING for me.

1861. KINGSLY, *Ravenshoe*, vi. 'I AXED her would she like to live in the great house, and she said no.'

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 232. Stow your gab and gauffery, To every fakement I'm a fly; I never taken no fluffery, For I'm a regular AXE-MY-EYE.

PHRASES: TO HAVE AN AX TO GRIND = to have personal interests to serve; TO PUT THE AX IN THE HELVE=to solve a doubt, to unriddle a puzzle; TO SEND THE AX AFTER THE HELVE (OR THE HELVE AFTER THE HATCHET) = to despair; TO HANG UP ONE'S AX=to desist from fruitless labour, to abandon a useless project; TO OPEN A DOOR WITH AN AX (said of barren or unprofitable labour).

c. 1450. *Lonelick, Grail*, xxvii. Zit cowde he NOT PUTTEN THE EX IN JE HELVE.

1547. HETWOOD, *Prov. and Epig.* (1867), 80. Here I SENDE THAXE AFTER THE HELVE AWAKE.

1815. C. MINER, *Who'll turn Grind-stones*. When I see a merchant over-polite to his customers . . . thinks I, that man has AN AX TO GRIND.

1865. HOLLAND, *Plain Talk*, v. 188. Little cliques and cabals composed of men who have AXES TO GRIND.

1881. *D. Telegraph*, 8 June, 6. 2. The hands that . . . GRIND THE AXE, and that 'pull the string.'

1888. *Detroit Free Press*, 22 Sept. William Black says the only AX a novelist has TO GRIND is the climax.

1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican*, 13. The anecdotes and stories have no morals to point, no AXES TO GRIND.

**AXEWADDLE**, *verb*. (provincial).—To wallow. Hence AXEWADDLER (a term of contempt).

**AXIS**, *subs.* (venery).—The female pudendum: see MONOSYLLABLE.

**AYRSHIRES**, *subs. pl.* (Stock Exchange).—Glasgow and South-Western Railway Stock.





of a captain in the 'army of the Irish Republican Brotherhood.'

2. (Harrow).—A standard in Gymnasium the next below A (q.v.).

3. (Felsted).—See A.

NOT TO KNOW B FROM A BULL'S FOOT (A BATTLEDORE, A BROOMSTICK, or any alliterative jingle), *phr.* (old).—To be illiterate or ignorant; to be unable to distinguish 'which is which': also affirmatively, *see* A, BATTLEDORE, CHALK, etc.

1401. *Pol. Poems*, II. 57. I know not an A from the wynd-myln, ne a B FROM A BOLE FOOT.

1553-87. *Foxe, Acts and Monuments*, II. 474. He KNEW NOT A B FROM A BATTLEDORE not ever a letter of the book.

1592. *Nashe, Pierce Pennilesse*, 30b. Now you TALKE OF A BEE. ILE TELL YOU A TALE OF A BATTLEDORE and write in prayse of vertue. *Ibid.* (1599), *Lenten Stuffe* (1885), v. 197. EVERY MAN CAN SAY BEE TO A BATTLEDORE and write in prayse of Vertue.

1609. *DEKKER, Guls-Hornebooke*, 3. You shall not need to buy booke; no, scorne to DISTINGUISH A B FROM A BATTLEDORE.

subs. (Fenian: obsolete).—I. *See* quot.

d. 1883. H. J. BYRON [MS. note to HOTTEN'S *Slang Dict.*: now in B. Museum]. The title

1613. KING, *Half a pennyworth of Wit*, 'Dedication.' Simple honest dunce, as I am, that CANNOT SAY B TO A BATTLEDORE, it is very presumptuously done of me to offer to hey-passé and repasse it in print so.

1621. MONTAGU, *Diatrabe*, 118. The clergy of this time were . . . NOT ABLE TO SAY BO TO A BATTLEDORE.

1630. TAYLOR, *Motto*, 'Dedication.' For in this age of critics are such store, That OR A B WILL MAKE A BATTLEDOOR. *Ibid.*, 'Dedication' to *Odomb's Complaint*. To the gentlemen readers that UNDERSTAND A B FROM A BATTLEDOOR.

1663. HOWELL, *Eng. Proverbs*, 16. HE KNOWETH NOT A B FROM A BATTLEDOOR.

1672. RAY, *Proverb*, s.v.

1677. MIEGE, *Dict. Fr. and Eng.*, 128. BATTLEDORE . . . formerly a term for a hornbook, and hence no doubt arose the phrase TO KNOW A B FROM A BATTLEDORE.

1846. BRACKENRIDGE, *Modern Chivalry*, 43. There were members who SCARCELY KNEW B FROM A BULL'S-FOOT.

1877. PEACOCK, *Manly* (Linc.) *Glossary*, s.v. BATTLEDORE. He does NOT KNOW HIS A B C FRA A BATTLEDOOR.

1884. BLACK, *Judith Shakespeare*, xxi. Fools that SCARCE KNOW A B FROM A BATTLEDORE.

B FLAT (or B), *subs. phr.* (common).—A bed bug; a NORFOLK HOWARD (q.v.); *cf.* F SHARP.

1853. DICKENS, *Household Words* xx. 326. A stout negro of the flat back tribe—known among comic writers as B FLATS.

1867. *Cornhill Mag.*, Ap., 450. That little busy B which invariably improves the darkness at the expense of every offering traveller.

1881. HUGHES, *Rugby Tenn.*, 58.  
An insect suspiciously like a British B  
FLAT.

**BA**, *verb*. (old colloquial).—To kiss :  
also as *subs.* : cf. BUSS. [O. E. D. :  
'probably a nursery or jocular  
word'; *Century*, 'perhaps the  
humorous imitation of a smack.']

1383. CHAUCER, *Cast. Tales*, 'Wife  
of Bath's Prol.', 433. How mekly loketh  
Wilkyng our scheep! Com ner, my spouse,  
let me BA thy cheke.

c. 1529. SKELTON, *My Darling dere*, 9.  
With BA-BA-BA, and BAS, BAS, BAS, She  
cherished hym both cheke and chyn.  
*Ibid.*, 148. BAS me, bultyng, praty Cis.

**BAA**, *subs.* (old).—A bleat ; also  
as *verb* : of a sheep. Hence  
BAALING (diminutive)=a lamb-  
kin : also (nursery) BAA-LAMB ;  
BAAING=noisy silliness, and as  
*adj.*

1500. DUNBAR, *Works* [PATERSON  
(1860), 323]. BAE [stands for the cry of  
sheep].

1580. SIDNEY, *Arcadia* (1622), lxix.  
77. Still for thy Dam with BEA-WAY-  
MENTING crie.

c. 1586. SIDNEY [JAMIESON]. Like a  
lamb, whose dam way is set, He treble  
BAAS for help.

1589. *Pappe with Hatchet* (1644), 37.  
They haue no properte of sheep but BEA.

1594. SHAKESPEARE, *Love's Labour  
Lost*, v. 1. *Moth*. What is a, b, spelt  
backward, with the horn on his head ?  
*Hol.* BA, puerita, with a horn added.  
*Moth.* BA, most silly sheep with a horn.  
*Ibid.* (1607). *Coriolanus*, ii. 1. 12. He's a  
Lambe indeed, that BAES like a Beare.

1600. *Evergreen* (1761), ii. 58. With  
mony a BAE and Bleit.

c. 1649. DRUMMOND (of Hawthornden),  
*Poems* (1711), 4. 2. There BEA-wailing  
strays A harmless lamb.

1765. SMART, *Phædrus* (BOHN), III.  
xiv. 56. You little fool, why, how you  
BAA ! This goat is not your own mamma.

1818. KEATS, *Endymion*, III. 3.  
There are . . . who upon Their BAAING  
vanities to browse away The comfortable  
green and juicy hay from Human  
pastures.

1832. MARRYAT, *Newton Forster*,  
xxxi. The BA-ING and bleating.

1854. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, 2.  
Silly little knock-kneed BAAH-LING.

1862. MAX MÜLLER [*Macm. Mag.*,  
Nov., 57]. Can we admit . . . that those  
who imitate the BAAING of the sheep name  
the animal ?

1870. *D. News*, 11 Oct. We civic  
sheep have set up so loud a BA-BA that we  
have terrified the wolves.

1877. EDWARDS, *Up. Nile*, vi. 138.  
Our sacrifice sheep . . . comes BAAING in  
the rear.

1877. BLACKIE, *Wise Men*, 264.  
The snow-white lamb . . . fills the solitude  
with tremulous BAA.

**BAB**, *subs.* (old).—See quot. : also  
BABBA.

1508. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*,  
s.v. *Pappa* . . . the first word children  
vse, as with vs dad or daddie or BAB.

1863. KINGSLEY, *Waterbabies*, 48.  
Sitting down and crying for his BABA  
(though he never had any BABA to  
cry for).

**BABBER-LIPPED**. *See* BLABBER-  
LIPS.

**BABBLE**, *subs.* (B. E. and GROSE :  
now recognised).—'Confused unintelligible talk such as was used  
at the building of the tower of  
Babel' (GROSE). BABBLER='a  
great talker' (B. E.). [O. E. D. :  
Common to several languages :  
'in none can its history be  
carried far back ; as yet it is  
known as early in English as  
anywhere else. . . . No direct  
connection with Babel can be  
traced ; though association with  
that may have affected the  
senses.']

**BABBLER**, *subs.* (sporting).—I. A  
hound giving too much tongue.

1732. BERKELEY, *Works* (1732), 1.  
169. You shall often see among the Dogs  
a loud BABLER with a bad Nose lead the  
unskillful.

1735. SOMERVILLE, *Chase* [CHALMERS, xi. 167. 1], iv. 66. The vain BABBLER shun, Ever loquacious, ever in the wrong.

1880. *Encyclop. Brit.*, xii. 315. After a fox has been found, the BABBLER announces the fact for the next ten minutes, and repeats his refrain whenever the least opportunity presents itself.

2. *See BABBLE.*

**BABE**, *subs. (parliamentary)*.—1. The last elected member of the House of Commons. Cf. FATHER OF THE HOUSE = the oldest representative.

2. (American).—The youngest member of a class at the United States Military College, West Point.

3. (auctioneers').—An auction SHARK (*q.v.*); a KNOCK-OUT (*q.v.*) man: for a consideration these men agree not to oppose the bidding of larger dealers, who thus keep down the price of lots.

4. (American).—A Baltimore rowdy: also BLOOD TUB (*q.v.*), PLUG-UGLY (*q.v.*).

*See BABY.*

**BABE IN THE WOOD**, *subs. phr. (old)*.—1. A culprit in the stocks or pillory (GROSE).

2. (old).—In *pl.* = dice.

**BABOO** (or **BABU**), *subs. (Anglo-Indian)*.—See *quots.* 1886 and 1888. Hence BABOO-ENGLISH = superfine; grandiloquent English such as is written by a BABOO; also BABOONDOM and BABOOISM.

c. 1866. LYALL, *Old Pindaree*. But I'd sooner be robbed by a tall man who showed me a yard of steel, Than be fleeced by a sneaking BABOO with a peon and badge at his heel.

c. 1879. ABERIGH-MACKAY, *Twenty-one Days in India*, 49. However much we may desire to diffuse BABOOISM over the Empire.

1871. *Pall Mall Gaz.* (O.E.D.). BABOONDOM is making ready for its great protest against education or any other cess.

1886. YULE and BURNETT, *Hobson-Jobson*, s.v. BABOO. In Bengal, and elsewhere, among Anglo-Indians, it is often used with a slight savour of disparagement as characterising a superficially cultivated, but too often effeminate Bengal; and from the extensive employment of the class to which the term was applied as a title in the capacity of clerks, in English offices the word has come often to signify a native clerk who writes English.

1886. OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 224. Text-books [Indian] are evidently English works crammed full of hard words such as are found in the metaphysical treatises. This accounts for the wonderful BABOO's ENGLISH that is sometimes printed for our amusement.

1888. *Oxford Eng. Dict.*, s.v. BABOO. Orig. A Hindoo title of respect, answering to our *Mr.* or *Esquire*; hence, a native Hindu gentleman: also (in Anglo-Indian use) a native clerk or official who writes English.

**BABOON**, *subs. (common)*.—A term of abuse: *see APE*. Whence BABOONERY; BABOONISH; and BABOONIZE = TO MONKEY (*q.v.*).

1380-5. WYCLIF, *Works* [E. E. T. S.], 8. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 148. There is the curious BABWYNRIE formed from BABOON.]

c. 1500. *Robin Hood* [RITSON], xi. 238. He then began to storm, Cries Fool, fanatic, BABOON!

1502. NASHE, *Piers Pennilesse*, E. j. b. Is it anie discredit to me, thou great BABOON . . . to be censured by thee?

1508. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Henry IV.*, ii. 4. He a good wit? Hang him, BABOON! His wit's as thick as Tewkesbury mustard.

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, i. 1. Why so, my good BABOONS! Shall we go make A sort of sober, scurvy, precise neighbours?

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. Babouinner, to BABOONIZE it; to play the monkey; to use apish or foolish tricks, or knaish pranks.

1628. WITHER, *Brit. Rememb.*, i. 977. Such Apes, and such BABOONES As Parasites, and impudent Buffoones.

1678. WYCHERLEY, *Plain Dealer*, ii. 1. 25. No chattering, BABOONS, instantly be gone!

1848. MARRYAT, *Rattlin the Reeser*, xix. The improvement . . . that BABOONERY had made toward manhood.

1857. *Nat. Mag.*, ii. 168. Oranges which he demolished in a style of the most perfect BABOONERY.

**BABY (or BABE), subs. (nursery and colloquial).**—1. A childish person : e.g. 'a GREAT BABY,' 'a MERE BABY,' etc. Hence, TO SMELL OF THE BABY=to be infantine or childish (in character or ability): cf. BABY-ACT. Also as *verb*=to act (or treat) childishly ; BABYHOOD (BABYDOM or BABYISM)=childishness ; BABY-BUNTING=an endearment.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Hamlet*, ii. 2. That GREAT BABY you see there is not yet out of his swaddling clothes.

1603. *Patient Grissil*, 17. My brisk spangled BABY will come into a stationer's shop.

1611. *Bible*, 'Translator's Preface,' i. Hee was no BABE, but a great clearke.

1618. BRETON, *Courtier and Countryman*, 19. There are some that in their childhood are so long in their horne booke that, doe what they can, they will SMELL OF THE BABY till they can not see to read.

1637. FLETCHER, *Elder Brother*, iii. 5. Though he be grave with years, he's a GREAT BABY.

1660. MILTON, *Free Commonwealth [Works]* (1851), 430]. If we were aught els but Sluggards of BABIES.

1667. DRYDEN, *Martin Mar-all* [OLIPHANT, *New English*, ii. 113. A grown-up person is called a BABY].

1742. YOUNG, *Night Thoughts*, vi. 521. It BABIES us with endless toys.

1837. BLACKWOOD, xli. 280. The solemn littleness of Lord John Russell, and the BABIVMS of Lord Morpeth.

1860. THOMPSON, *Audi. Alt.*, iii. cxv. 45. All the malevolence and BABYHOOD of the country rush to display themselves.

1864. D. TEL., 14 Sept. The young foal or filly must be raced in its BABYDOM.

1865. WHITNEY, *Gayworthys*, i. 240. I should like to be made much of, and tended—yes BABIED.

1868. DUFF, *Pol. Survey* (1868), 159. Too BABIVSH even to deserve the semblance of consideration.

2. (old).—In *pl.*=pictures in books. [O.E.D. : perh. orig. the ornamental tail-pieces and borders with Cupids and grotesque figures interworked.]

1605. SVLVESTER, *Dw Bartsas* (1621), 5. We gaze but on the BABIES and the cover, The gaudy flowers and edges painted over.

1618. HALLES, *Gold. Rem.* (1673), ii. 8. Provided that, in the Tables and Maps, there were no pictures and BABIES.

1655. FULLER, *Hist. Camb.* (1840), 39. More pleased with BABIES in books than children are.

3. (old colloquial). — The minute reflection of one gazing into another's eye. Hence TO LOOK BABIES (OR A BOY) IN THE EYES=to look amorously ; to cast SHEEP'S-EYES (q.v.).

d. 1586. SIDNEY, *Astroph. and Stella*. So when thou saw'st in nature's cabinet Stella thou straight LOOK'ST BABIES IN HER EYES.

1593. DONNE, *The Ecstasy*. And PICTURES IN OUR EYES to get Was all our propositio.

1593. *Tell-trothes New Year's Gift*, 39. That BABIE which lodges IN women's EYES.

1594. DRAVTON, *Idea*, 2. But O, see, see we need enquire no further, Upon your lips the scarlet drops are found, And IN YOUR EYE THE BOY that did the murder. *Ibid.* See where little Cupid lies Looking BABIES IN THE EYES.

[?]. [ELLIS, *Specimen Eng. Romances*, 7]. In each of her two crystal EYES Smileth A NAKED BOY ; It would you all in heart suffice To see that lamp of joy.

1600. SHAKSPEARE, *Timon of Athens*, i. 2. Joy had the like conception IN OUR EYES, And, at that instant, like A BABE sprung up.

c. 1613. FLETCHER, *Woman's Prize*, v. 1. No more fool To LOOK GAY BABIES IN YOUR EYES, young Roland, And hang about your pretty neck. *Ibid.* (1618), *Loyal Subject*. LOOK BABIES IN YOUR EYES, my pretty sweet one.

1619. PURCHAS, *Microcosm*, go. But wee cannot so passe the centre of the Eye, which wee call Pupilla, quas Puppa, THE BABIE IN THE EYE, the Sight.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, III. II. v. 5. (1651), 576. They may kiss and coil, lye and LOOK BABIES IN ONE ANOTHER'S EYES . . . satiate themselves with love's pleasures.

d. 1635. RANDOLPH, *Poems*, 124. When I LOO BABIES IN THINE EYES, Here Venus, there Adonis lies.

1636. HEWWOOD, *Love's Mistress*, 3. She clung about his neck, gave him ten kisses, Toy'd with his locks, LOOKED BABIES IN HIS EYES.

1647-8. HERRICK, *Hesperides* (1697), i. 12. You blame me too, because I can't devise Some sport, to please those BABIES IN YOUR EYES. *Ibid.* [NARES], 138. Or those BABIES IN YOUR EYES, In their christall nunneries.

1668. LESTRANGE, *Quo Vado* (1778), 57. Be sure when you come into company that you do not stand staring the men in the face as if you were MAKING BABIES IN THEIR EYES.

1672. MARVELL, *Reh. Transp.*, i. 66. Only to speculate his own BABY IN THEIR EYES.

1682. BEHN, *City Heiress*, iii. 1. Sigh'd, and LOOKT BABIES IN HIS GLOATING EYES.

1821. SHELLEY, *Prometheus Unbound*. Think ye by gazing on each other's eyes To MULTIPLY YOUR LOVELY SELVRS.

4. (old).—A doll; a puppet; a child's plaything: also BABY-CLOUTS = a rag-doll: see BARTHOLOMEW-BABY.

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Franc.*, 1961. BABE that children play with, *bourpee*.

1552. HULVET, *Abecedarium*. BABY or puppet for chyldren, *Puppa*.

1563. HOMILIES, *Idolatry*, iii. (1844), 238. Puppets and BABIES for old fools in dotage.

1579. SPENSER, *Shep. Cal.*, May, 240. Bearing a truss of trifles, As bells, and BABES, and glasses in his packe.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *K. John*, iii. iv. 58. I should forget my sonne Or madly think a BABE of clouts were he. *Ibid.* (1600), *Macbeth*, iii. 4. 106. If trembling I inhabit then, protest me The BABY of a girl.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Muguet*. A curiously dressed BABIE of clouts.

1613. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Captain*, i. 3. And now you cry for't, As children do for BABIES, back again.

1631. DRAYTON, *Poems*, 243. For bells and BABIES, such as children small Are ever us'd to solace them withall.

1631. *French Schoole-Maister*, f. 98. Shall we buy a BABIE or two for our children for pastime?

1640. *King and a Poore Northern Man*. What gares these babies and BABIES all?

1640. *Two Lancashire Lovers*, 113. And drawing neare the bed to put her daughters armes, and higher part of her body too, within sheets, perceiving it not to be her daughter, but a BABY-CLOUTS only to delude her.

1651. LILLY, *Charles I.* (1774), 210. Whose father sold BABIES and such pedlary ware in Cheapside.

1700. CONGREVE, *Way of World*, v. 5. She was never suffered to play with a male child, though but in coats. Nay, her very BABIES were of the feminine gender.

1712. STEELE, *Spectator*, 500, 3. Little girls tutoring their BABIES. *Ibid.*, 478. These [boxes] are to have Folding Doors, which being open'd you are to behold a BABY dress'd out.

1721. POPE, *Letter to Blount*, 3 Oct. Sober over her Sampler, or gay over a jointed BABY.

Adj. (colloquial). — Small; tiny: e.g. a BABY-glass, BABY-engine, etc.

1859. JEPHSON, *Brittany*, vii. 88. Turrets beside which the leaning tower of Pisa is a BABY.

1864. REAHL, 15 June, 5. Ravines from which Jumnus, Indus, and Ganges, yet BABY-streams, gush.

TO KISS THE BABY, *verb. phr.* (American).—To take a drink; TO SMILE (*q.v.*).

**BABY ACT**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—The legal defence of ‘infancy’: hence TO PLEAD THE BABY ACT = (1) to plead minority as voiding a contract; and (2) to excuse oneself on the ground of inexperience.

**BABY-FARMER**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A professional adopter of infants; a MINDER (*q.v.*): spec. in an evil sense: frequently, once the money is paid, the children are gradually done to death. Whence BABY-FARMING.

1884. *Christian World*, 10 July, 513. 3. BABY-FARMING was vigorously denounced.

**BABY-HERDER**, *subs. phr.* (American).—A nurse.

**BABYLON**, *subs.* (colloquial).—Generic for luxury and magnificence. Hence (1) the papal power (formerly identified with the mystical Babylon of the Apocalypse); (2) any large city: spec. London (also MODERN BABYLON). BABYLONIAN = (1) a papist; and (2) an astrologer (Chaldea was the ancient seat of the craft); BABYLONISH = popish.

1564. *Brief Exam.*, iij. We dwell not among the BABILONIANS and Chaldeis.

1590. BARRON [*Confer.*, i. 10]. The Antichristian yoke of their BABYLONISH Bishops.

1634. RAINBOW, *Labour* (1635), 41. Thy great BABILONS which thou hast built.

c. 1650. BRATHWAYTE, *Barnaby's Jour.* (1723), 61. Whores of BABYLON me impaled, And me their Adonis called.

1654. GAGE [Title]. *A clear Vindication of the . . . Parochial Ministers of England, from the . . . injurious nickname of BABYLONISH.*

1663. BUTLER, *Hud.*, i. i. 93. A BABYLONISH Dialect, Which learned Pedents much affect.

1677. GILPIN, *Demonol.* (1867), 192. For from good bishops . . . they are become incurable BABYLONIANS.

1795. SOUTHEY, *Letters from Spain* (1799), 76. Here the BABYLONIAN [= Romish Church] walks the street in full dress scarlet.

1816. GILCHRIST, *Philos. Etym.*, 128. This is the kind of BABYLONISH lexicography of Johnson's Dictionary, which gives twenty-four meanings, or shadows of meaning to the word *from*.

1823. BYRON, *Juan*, xi. xxiii. The approach . . . to mighty BABYLON [London].

**BABYLONITISM**, *subs.* (Winchester College).—A dressing gown. [That is BABYLONITISH garment.]

**BABY-MAKER**, *subs. phr.* (venery).—The *penis*: see PRICK.

**BABY'S-PAP**, *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—A cap.

**BABY WEE-WEES**, *subs. phr.* (Stock Exchange).—Buenos Ayres Water Works shares.

1871. ATKINS, *House Scraps*. Oh! supposing our Cream-jugs were broken, Or Beetles were souring the BABIES.

**BACCA**, *subs.* (colloquial).—Tobacco. Fr. *perle* (from *perle*). Also BACCO, BACCY, BACKER, and BACKY.

1833. MARRVAT, *Peter Simple*, ii. You must learn to chaw BACCY.

1860. *All Year Round*, 57. 161. His wife has found his BACCO-box.

1861. CONWAY, *Forays*, 228. I lay on an Afghan goat-rug . . . with a pipe filled with good BACCY in my mouth.

1863. H. KINGSLEY, *Austin Elliot*, xxi. Bits of BACKER pipe.

**BACCA-PIPES**, *subs. phr.* (common).—Whiskers curled in ringlets: obsolete. See MUTTON-CHOPS.

**BACCARE** (or **BAKKARE**), *intj.* (Old Cant).—Go back ! give place ! Away !

[1473. MARKWORTH, *Chronicle*, 1461-74 (CAMDEN), 22. And asyfre . . . it arose north-est, and so BAKKERE and BAKKERE.]

[1553. UDAL, *Roister Doister* (DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT)), iii. 65. Ah, sir ! BACKARE, quoth Mortimer to his sow.]

d. 1565. HEWWOOD, *Epigrams*. Shall I consume myself, to restore him now ; Nay BACKARE, quoth Mortimer to his sow. *Ibid.*, *Epigrams*. BACKARE, quoth Mortimer to his sow, see Mortimer's sow speaketh as good Latyn as hee. *Ibid.* BACKARE, quoth Mortimer to his sow : Went that sow backe at that bidding, trow you ?

[1577. *Golden Aphroditus* (HALLIWELL). Both trumpe and drumme sounded nothing for their larum but BACCARE, BACCARE.]

[1592. LIVY, *Midas*, v. 2. The masculine gender is more worthy than the feminine. Therefore, Licio, BACKARE.]

[1593. SHAKESPEARE, *Taming of the Shrew*, ii. 1. Saving your tale, Petruchio, I pray Let us, that are poor petitioners, speak too ; BACCARE ! you are marvellous forward.]

1660. HOWELL, *Eng. Proverbs*, s.v.

1822. NARES, *Glossary*, s.v. BACCARE . . . Used in allusion to a proverbial saying, 'BACKARE, quoth Mortimer to his sow' : probably made in ridicule of some man who affected a knowledge of Latin without having it, and who produced his Latinized English words on the most trivial occasions.

**BACCHUS**, *subs.* (old).—I. Wine ; intoxicating liquor. Whence SON OF BACCHUS = a tippler : see LUSHINGTON ; and *Bacchi plenus* = drunk : see SCREWED. [Innumerable derivatives and combinations have been and are still in more or less regular and literary use.]

c. 1496. DUNBAR, *Gold. Terg.*, 124. BACUS, the gladder of the table.

c. 1640. WALLER, *Batt. Summer Isl.*, 17. The sweet palmettoes a new BACCHUS yield.

1747. *Scheme Equip. Men of War*, 36. The more corpulent SONS OF BACCHUS . . . might have Easy-Chairs.

1823. BYRON, *Island*, ii. xi. The palm . . . Within whose bosom infant BACCHUS broods.

2. (Eton College).—See quot.

1865. *Etoniana*, 27. On Shrove Tuesday verses were written (c. 1561) in honour or dispraise of Bacchus—'because poets were considered the clients of Bacchus'. . . . This custom was continued almost into modern days, and though the subject was changed, the copy of verses was still called a BACCHUS.

**BACH** (or **BATCH**), *verb.* (American).—To live as a bachelor.

**BACHELOR.** THEN THE TOWN BULL IS A BACHELOR, *phr.* (old).—The retort incredulous on a woman's chastity (RAY).

**BACHELOR'S BABY**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A bastard : see BYE-BLOW and BACHELOR'S-WIFE.

1672. RAY, *Proverbs*, 'Jocular Proverbs.' THE SON OF A BACHELOR ; i.e. a bastard.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, x. Never 'ad no father to speak of. Kind o' BACHELOR'S BABY, you know.

**BACHELOR'S BUTTONS.** TO WEAR BACHELOR'S BUTTONS, *verb. phr.* (old).—To be a bachelor. [GREY, *Notes on Shakespeare*, i. 107 : 'Country fellows carried the flowers of this plant in their pockets, to know whether they should succeed with their sweethearts, and they judged of their good or bad success by their growing or not growing there.]

**BACHELOR'S-FARE**, *subs. phr.* (common). See quot.

1738. SWIFT, *Poetic Conversation*, i. Some ladies of your acquaintance have promised to breakfast with you . . . what will you give us? *Col.* Why, faith, madam, BACHELOR'S-FARE, bread and cheese and kisses.

BACHELOR'S-WIFE, *subs. phr.* (common).—1. An ideal wife; and 2. (venery)=a harlot: whence BACHELOR'S-BABY=a bastard.

1562. HEYWOOD, *Prov. and Epigrams* (1867), 61. 7. BACHELORS WIUES, and maides children be well taught.

1726. VANBRUGH, *Provoked Husband*, i. 1. Ay! ay! BACHELORS' WIVES, indeed, are finely governed.

1854. MILLER, *Schools and School-masters*, 503. The 'BACHELOR'S WIFE' . . . occupies a large place in our literature, as the mistress of all the poets who ever wrote on love without actually experiencing it.

BACK, *verb.* (colloquial).—1. To espouse, advocate, or support a matter, by money, influence, authority, etc.: usually TO BACK UP. Hence (2), in racing=to wager, or bet in support of one's opinion, judgment, or fancy; TO BACK THE FIELD=to bet against all horses save one, usually 'the favourite'; BACKED=bett'd on; BACKER=(1) a supporter, a BACK-FRIEND (*q.v.*), and (2) a layer of odds: *cf.* BOOKIE; BACKING=support.

1548. PATTEN, *Exp. to Scotland* [ARBER, *Garner*, III. 98]. A troupe of Demi-lances to BACK them.

1583. BARRINGTON, *Commandm.*, 380. A BACKER to beare out my foule expressions.

1589. PAPPE WITH HATCHET (1844), 15. Art thou so BACKT that none dare blade it with thee.

d. 1592. GREENE, *Orl. Fur.* (1599), 30. He BACKT the Prince of Cuba for my foe.

1590. NASHE, *Lenten Stuffe* (1577), 77. Faithful confederates and BACK-FRIENDS.

c. 1605. ROWLEY [?], *Birth Merlin*, iv. 2. 340. The Saxons which thou brought'st To BACK thy usurpations.

1612. TAYLOR, *Comm.*, Titus, i. 9. Which godly course Augustine BACKETH.

1684. BUNYAN, *Pilg.*, ii. 70. One, that . . . had taken upon him to BACK the Lions.

1692. RAY, *Dissol. World*, Pref. Well-BACKED by Divine Authority.

1697. DRYDEN, *Virgil's Eclogues*, iii. 44. Now BACK your Singing with an equal Stake.

1699. LUTTRELL, *Brief Rel. State Affairs*, IV. 503. The lord Wharton's horse Careless has beaten another BACKT by the duke of Devon, etc., for £1000.

1722. DE FOE, *Moll Flanders* (1840), 313. He BACKED his discourses with proper quotations of scripture.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burleigh Homer*, I. 'Argument.' Apollo . . . did not fail To BACK his parson tooth and nail.

1817. BYRON, *Beppo*, xxvii. Most men (till by losing render'd sager) Will BACK their own opinions with a wager.

1818. SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, viii. A quarter whence assuredly he expected no BACKING. *Ibid.* (1823), *Quentin Durward*, vi. I had in case of the worst a stout BACK-FRIEND in this uncle of mine.

1835. MARRYAT, *Jacob Faithful*, xxiii. 80. Some one BACKED me against another man in the ring for fifty pounds a-side.

1838. DICKENS, *Nich. Nickleby*, i. 1. Likened to two principals in a sparring match who when fortune is low and BACKERS scarce.

1850. LYTTON, *My Novel*, ix. ix. 'Take any odds against him that his BACKERS may give,' said L'Estrange.

1853. ROGERS, *Ecl. Faith*, 76. Authoritative teaching . . . BACKED by the performance of miracles?

1865. ARNOLD, *Ess. Crit.*, i. 32. Let us all stick to each other and BACK each other up.

1868. FREEMAN, *Norm. Cong.* (1876), II. x. Demands which had been BACKED by an armed force.

1879. FROUDE, *Cæsar*, xxi. He prolonged Cæsar's command, and BACKED him UP in everything.

1880. *JEFFRIES, Hodge*, I. 79. The old uncle who had 'BACKED' him at the bank.

1880. *Times*, 11 Dec., 9. It is promoted by what appears to be a solid BACKING of landowners.

1883. *BRUNSON [Standard]*, 28 June, 2. 3. Varied appeals to strengthen and 'BACK UP' their own long-continued efforts.

3. (venery).—To copulate: properly of animals. Also to LIE ON ONE'S BACK, TO MAKE THE BEAST WITH TWO BACKS (see BEAST), TO HAVE (or DO) A BACK-FALL (or BACK-SCUTTLE), TO GO STAR-GAZING (or STUDYING ASTRONOMY) ON ONE'S BACK, etc. Also TO EARN MONEY ON ONE'S BACK=to play the whore. See BACKWARD.

1611. *CHAPMAN, May-Day*, iii. 3. Now hath my soul a thousand fancies in an instant, as what wench dreams not on when she LIES ON HER BACK.

1658. *ROWLAND, Mouffet's Theat.* *Ins.*, 927. When as the female or she Asse would be BACKT.

1705-7. *WARD, Hudib. Rediv.*, II. iii. 6.

4. (colloquial).—To endorse; to countersign: e.g. TO BACK a cheque; also to BACK A BILL=to become responsible for payment: cf. 'to foot' an account. BACKED=endorsed, 'accepted.' Formerly to 'direct' or address a letter: prior to the general use of envelopes, the address was written on the back of the folded sheet.

1768. *BLACKSTONE, Comm.*, IV. 238. The warrant of a justice of the peace in one county . . . must be BACKED, that is, signed by a justice of the peace in another . . . before it can be executed there.

1874. *Silbad*, 156. And brought the prestige of a lordly name To BACK a bill.

TO BE BACKED, *verb, phr.* (old).—To be dead: see quot.

c. 1606. *B.E., Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. BACKT . . . 'he longs to have his Father upon six Mens shoulders' [GROSE (1785)], *Ibid.*: 'that is carrying to his grave'.

PHRASES AND COLLOQUIALISMS: TO GIVE ONE THE BACK=to ignore; BEHIND ONE'S BACK=out of sight, hearing, or knowledge; TO GIVE BACK=to turn tail; TO TURN ONE'S (or THE) BACK ON=(1) to go, (2) to abandon, and (3) to snub; BACK AND SIDE (BACK AND BELLY, or BACK AND EDGE)=all over, completely, through thick and thin: TO TAKE THE BACK ON ONESELF=to run away; WITH BACK TO THE WALL=hard-pressed, struggling against odds; TO HAVE BY THE BACK=to seize, to lay hold of; TO BREAK THE BACK=(1) to overburden, (2) to all but finish (a task), and (3) to exhaust one's partner in the act of kind; TO RIDE ON ONE'S BACK=to deceive; TO GET THE BACK OF=(1) to take in the rear, and (2) to have at an advantage; ON ONE'S BACK=(1) FLOORED (q.v.), (2) at the end of one's resources, (3) sick or indisposed, and (4) SPREAD (q.v.); TO HAVE (PUT, GET, OR SET) ONE'S BACK UP=(1) to resist, to rouse, and (2) to get (or be) angry (B. E. and GROSE): whence, 'DON'T GET YOUR BACK UP!='Keep calm!' or 'YOUR BACK'S UP=a jeer at an angry hunchbacked man'; TO BACK OUT=to retire cautiously, to escape from a dilemma; TO GIVE (OR MAKE) A BACK=(1) to lend a hand, and (2) to bend the body, as at leap-frog; TO BACK DOWN=(1) to yield or retire from a matter, and (2) to eat one's words: hence a BACK-DOWN (or SQUARE BACK-DOWN)=(1) utter collapse, and (2) a severe rebuff; TO BE ON A MAN'S BACK

=to chide, to be severe upon; TO SEE THE BACK OF =to get rid of. Also 'His BACK is broad enough to bear jests' (RAY); 'What is got over the devil's BACK is spent under his belly (see quot. 1694).

c. 1300. *Cursor Mundi*, 2499. þe fwe GAUE BAK to wine away. *Ibid.* 4390. He drou, sco held, þe tassel brak, þe mantel left, he GAFE þE BAK.

c. 1380. *Wyclif, Works* (1880), 281. þou puttest þi self BEHIND þE BAKE.

c. 1400. *Dest. Troy*, xxiii, 9474. þai were bound to GYFFE BAKE, & the bent leue. *Ibid.*, iv. 1348. The Troiens . . . TURNYT þE BAKE, fleddon in fere.

c. 1400. *Rom. Rose*, 7318. Til he be slayne, BACK AND SIDE.

c. 1485. *Digby MS.* (1882), i. 340. I shuld bete you BAK AND SIDE.

c. 1500. *Lancelot*, 1488. It haith gart o thousand TAK At onys APONE THEM-SELF THE BAK.

1533. *BELLENDENE, Lucy*, i. 50. Dredand . . . to be inclusit on every side . . . they GAIF BAKKIS.

1535. *STEWART, Chron. Scot.*, ii. 73. That we may haif thair BAKIS AT THE WALL, Without defend that ar oure commoun fa.

c. 1555. *RIDLEY, Works*, 67. Else thou must be HAD BY THE BACK.

1591. *SHAKSPEARE, Two Gent.*, v. 4. 126. Thurio GIVE BACKE, or else embrase thy death. *Ibid.* (1592), *Romeo and Jul.*, iv. 1. 28. It will be of more price, Being spoke BEHIND YOUR BACKE, then to your face. *Ibid.* (1597), 2 *Hen. IV.*, i. 1. 130. The shame of those that TURN'D THEIR BACKS. *Ibid.* (1605), *Leas*, i. 1. 178. To TURNE THY hated BACKE Upon our kingdome. *Ibid.* (1613), *Hen. VIII.*, i. 1. 84. Many Haue BROKE THEIR BACKES with laying Mannors on 'em For this great Journey.

1597. *MORLEY, Introd. Mus.*, 146. The brother I HAUE YOU BY THE BACKE.

1610. *Wisard* [NARES]. Thy father made an ass off, wilst thou goe? And I in triumph RIDING ON HIS BACK.

1611. *Bible*, 1 Sam. x. 9. When he had TURNED HIS BACKE to go from Samuel.

c. 1624. *SMYTH, Serm.* (1632), 24. They GAUE him THE BACK, and became apostates.

1641. *HOOTHAM* in *Long Parl.* [SOUTHEY, *Commonplace Book*, II. (1849), 147]. Mr Speaker; FALL BACK, FALL EDGE I will go down and perform your commands.

1653. *HOLCROFT, Procoptius*. John . . . compassed the Trachea, so that he GOT THE BACKES of the Enemy.

c. 1655. *GURNALL, Christian in Compl.* Arm., v. 343. i. They never look up to heaven, till God lays them ON THEIR BACK.

1659. *Lady Alimony*, iii. They have engag'd themselves ours, BACK AND EDGE.

1661. *DAVENPORT, City Night-cap*, v. Catch'd at thy word, thou GIV'ST BACK.

c. 1680. *BEVERIDGE, Serm.* (1729), i. 99. If you TURN YOUR BACKS and refuse to . . . hearken.

1682. *BUNYAN, Holy War*, 236. Emmanuel, their Prince, has GIVEN them THE BACK.

1694. *MOTTEUX, Rabelais*, v. xi. WHAT IS GOT OVER THE DEVIL'S BACK IS SPENT UNDER HIS BELLY; or the goods which they unjustly get, perish with their prodigal heirs.

c. 1709. *WARD, Terra filius*, i. 21. She never gets a man upon the Hug, but she always BREAKS HIS BACK before she has done with him.

1710. *Dame Huddle's Letter*. That word SET MY BACK UP.

1711. *ADDISON, Spectator*, 12. 2. The Mistress . . . scolds at the Servants as heartily before my Face as BEHIND MY BACK. *Ibid.*, 108. 4. Sir Roger's BACK was no sooner TURNED but honest Will began.

1716. *BEHN, Dutch Lover*, ii. 3. I'll have no more to do with you BACK NOR EDGE.

1720. *VANBRUGH and CIBBER, Provoked Husband*, v. 1. O Lud! how HER BACK WILL BE UP then when she meets me.

1771. *SMOLLETT, Humphry Clinker*, 66. My uncle's BACK WAS UP in a moment; and he desired him to explain his pretensions.

1774. BRIDGES, *Homer Burlesque*, 45. And when you've fairly GOT HIS BACK UP, You're always forc'd your deeds to pack up.

1777. SHERIDAN, *School for Scandal*, i. 1. I cannot bear to hear people attacked BEHIND THEIR BACKS.

1783. AINSWORTH, *Lat. Dict.*, s.v. BACK. To give back, *Pedem. referre*.

1817. SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, viii. Jobson was determined that Morris should not BACK OUT . . . so easily.

1830. MARRYAT, *King's Own*, xxi. 'Sure your honour's in luck' . . . replied Barney, grinning, and BACKING OUT of the room.

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, vii. 57. Stooping . . . as if he were 'MAKING A BACK' for some beginner at leap-frog.

1841. CATLIN, *N. Amer. Indians*, ii. xlv. Sick and very feeble, having been for several weeks UPON MY BACK.

1845. DISRAELI, *Sybil* (1863), 14. But the other great Whig families . . . SET UP THEIR BACKS against this claim of the Egremonts.

1848. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, iii. The Major was GIVING A BACK to Georgy.

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, 124. 'Twould save some whole cart-loads of fuss, an' three or four months o' jaw, if some illustrious patriot should BACK OUT and withdraw.

1848. BEDINGER, *Speech in H. of Rep.*, 25 Jan. Would gentlemen be willing to BACK OUT, and forsake our rights? No, no. No turning back. This great country must go ahead.

1854. MILLER, *Schools and Schoolmasters*, 536. I ill liked to see him with his BACK TO THE WALL.

1855. TROLLOPE, *Warden*, xii. How was he to BACK OUT [when] his name was already so publicly concerned.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xvi. 'I know she is flighty, and that; and Brian's BACK IS UP a little.'

1863. CLARKE, *Shakspear Char.*, ix. 226. Octavius BACKS OUT; his caution and reserve come to his rescue.

1864. *Sunday Mag.*, i. 79. He goes his own way . . . if you PUT HIS BACK UP.

1866. MACDONALD, *Annals Quiet Neigh.*, xxx. I never TURNED MY BACK ON my leader yet.

c. 1870. SPOFFORD [*Casquet Lit.* (1877), IV. 9. 1]. The cat used to PUT UP HER BACK at the three.

1874. OLIPHANT, *Piccadilly*, IV. 152. He had done his best to spread the report of my marriage with his sister for fear of my BACKING OUT.

1874. MAHARRY, *Greece*, iii. They will censure her BEHIND BACKS.

1880. *St James's Gaz.*, 11 Oct. Unless the Government BACK DOWN from their preparations at this point.

1883. *Statist*, 21 July. While they were maturing their scheme, the Government went BEHIND THEIR BACKS and concluded an agreement.

1883. GREENWOOD, *Odd People*, 2. 'Don't say it to me. IT SETS MY BACK UP, and when my BACK'S SET UP I'm sometimes orchard.'

1884. *Harper's Mag.*, June, 66. 2. But firm, don't BACK DOWN.

TO BACK UP, *verb. phr.* (Winchester).—To call out: e.g. 'Why didn't you BACK UP? I would have come and helped you.' In College, times are BACKED UP by Junior in Chambers: such as 'Three quarters,' 'Hour,' 'Bells go single,' 'Bells down.'

See BEYOND.

**BACK-AND-BELLY, *adv. phr.* (old).**—All over; completely: also BACK-AND-BED and cf. BACK-AND-EDGE (*supra*, s.v. BACK, PHRASES). Hence TO KEEP ONE BACK AND BELLY = to provide everything, to feed and clothe; TO BEAT ONE BACK-AND-BELLY = to thrash thoroughly; TO GIVE BACK-AND-BELLY (venery) = to work both ends: said of a DOUBLE-BARRELLED (*q.v.*) harlot.

[c. 1300. *Cursor Mundi*, 5130. Clathing bath for BAC AND BEDD.]

[c. 1375. WICLIF, *Serm. [Works* (1869), i. 298. Cloping boþ for her BEDDE AND BAK.]

1549. LATIMER, *Sermons before Ed. VI. [Arber]*, 51. Borrow of thy two next neighbours, that is to say, of thy BACKE AND THI BELLV.

1603. SHAKSPEARE, *Meas. for Meas.*, iii. 2. 23. What 'is to cram a MAW, OR cloath a BACKE.

1862. TROLLOPE, *Orley Farm*, I. 83 (HOPPE). It is from the BACKS AND BELLIES of other people that savings are made with the greatest constancy.

**BACKARE.** See BACCARE.

**BACKBITER**, *subs. (Grose)*. — I. 'One who slanders another behind his BACK, *i.e.* in his absence.' Also (2) 'His bosom friends are become his BACK-BITERS, said of a lousy man.'

**BACK-BREAKER**, *subs. phr. (colloquial)*. — I. A hard taskmaster: in quot. = the foreman of a gang of farm labourers; and (2) any task that requires excessive exertion. Hence **BACK-BREAKING** (*adj.*) = arduous: also see PHRASES, s.v. BACK.

1867. *People's Mag.*, May, 314. 2. He selects one of his gang as BACK-BREAKER.

**BACK-CAP**, *verb. phr. (American)*. — To deprecate; to disparage: also **TO GIVE A BACK-CAP**.

1883. CLEMENS, *Life on the Mississippi*, 462. I didn't fear no one GIVING ME A BACK-CAP and running me off the job.

**BACK-CHEAT**, *subs. phr. (Old Cant)*. — A cloak; a WRAP-RASCAL (*g.v.*).

**BACKDOOR**, *subs. (venery)*. — The fundament. Hence **BACKDOOR-TRUMPET** = ARS MUSICA (*see ARSE*); **BACKDOOR-TROT** = diarrhoea; **BACKDOOR-WORK** (*or BACKGAMMON*) = sodomy; **BACK-**

**DOOR'S - MAN** (BACKGAMMON PLAYER, BACKGAMMONER [BEE], or GENTLEMAN OF THE BACKDOOR) = a sodomist.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, IV. xliv. Joan's BACK-DOOR was filthily puffing and roaring: So, for spite he bepiss'd her.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 59. And Jove, for fear they should not all attend . . . Bid Fame . . . sound both her fore and BACK-DOOR TRUMPET.

*Adj. (old colloquial)*. — Clandestine; speciously secret: also **BACKSTAIRS**: *e.g.* BACKDOOR COUNSELLOR, BACKSTAIRS INFLUENCE (or WORK), etc.; orig. and spec. of underhand intrigue at Court, *i.e.* when the Sovereign is approached secretly by the private stairs of a palace instead of by the State entrance.

[1611. SHAKSPEARE, *Cymbeline*, v. 3. 45. Having found the BACK DOORE open Of the vnguarded hearts.]

1618-21. HORE, *Hist. Newmarket*, I. 203. [A courtier] plies the BACKSTAIRS.

1641. DERING, *Sþ. on Relig.*, xi. 40. I hope we are not going up the BACKSTAIRS to Socinianisme.

1697. VANBRUGH, *Relapse*, II. 1. Like a BACKSTAIR minister at Court, who, while favourites are sauntering in the bed-chamber, is ruling in the closet.

1700. LAW, *Prop. for Counc. Trade in Scottl. (1751)*, 276. Their BACK DOOR to let in mischief.

1768. GOLDSMITH, *Goodnatured Man*, ii. Is he not a BACKSTAIRS FAVOURITE — one that can do what he pleases with those that do what they please.

1770. BURKE, *Pres. Disc. [Works (1842)]*, I. 131. A BACKSTAIRS INFLUENCE and clandestine government.

1805. JEFFERSON, *Writ. (1830)*, IV. 46. Our BACK-DOOR COUNSELLORS.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas [ROUTLEDGE, 1891]*, 291. You are no novice in BACK-STAIRS INFLUENCE.

1877. GRENVILLE MURRAY, *Round about France*, 77. These men are the most indefatigable retailers of BACKSTAIRS small talk.

1882. STEPHEN, *Swift*, 110. The BACK-STAIRS PLOTS by which the administration of his friends was hampered.

1888. TRUTH, 26 Ap. There is no rule of the service so strict that it will not yield to BACKSTAIRS, or other INFLUENCE.

1901. REFEREE, 7 Ap., i. 1. The Paul Prys of the Press—who used to be in the BACK-STAIRS LINE, . . . now are generally recruited from the carriage company.

**BACK-END**, *subs. phr.* (racing).—The last two months of the racing season, commencing with October: also as *adj.* [Properly (Scots) = the latter part of autumn.] Hence BACK-ENDER = a horse entered for a race late in the season.

1820. BLACKW. MAG., Oct., 3. When you did me the honour to stop a day or two at last BACK-END.

1883. HAWLEY SMART, *Hard Lines*, xxix. Most of what I got over that steeplechase I dropped at the BACK-END over the October handicaps.

1883. D. TELEGRAPH, 30 April, 3. 6. And neither [horse] could beat Palermo on BACK-END form.

c. 1889. *Sporting Times* [S. J. & C.J. Lord Bradford's horse evidently likes the Doncaster course, and he is undoubtedly a BACK-ENDER.

**BACKFALL**, *subs. phr.* (wrestlers').—1. A trip or fall on the back, as also BACKHEEL and BACK-LOCK. Also as *verb.*

1713. PARKYN'S, *Inn-Play* (1727), 53. Stand with that Toe out and Leg bent, over which he intends to take the Buttock or BACK-LOCK.

1838-9. HOOD'S OWN, 3. No wrestler . . . ever received half so many BACKFALLS as I.

1852. DICKENS, *Bleak House*, xxv. He will throw him an argumentative BACK-FALL presently.

1881. *Sportsman's Year Book*, 314. Cowan scored with a very neat BACK-HEEL.

1883. STANDARD, 24 Mar., 3. 7. J. Hodgson BACK-HEELED J. Wilson.

2. (venery).—The act of kind: of women only: *see GREENS* and *RIDE*.

**BACK-FRIEND**, *subs. phr.* (common).

—1. A secret-enemy; one who holds back in time of need. Also (2) = an ally (*see BACK*, *verb.* 2).

1472. PASTON, *Letters*, III. 40. I harde somewhat by hym off a BAKKE FFRENDE of yowt.

1574. NEWTON, *Health Mag.*, 75. Corrupt and unpure Ayre is unto all age a greate BACKFRIENDE and enimie.

1598. FLORIO, *World of Wordes*, s.v. *Inimico* and *Nemico*.

1593. SHAKESPEARE, *Comedy of Errors*, iv. 2. 36. A wolf, nay, worse, a fellow all in buff; A BACK-FRIEND, a shoulder-clapper.

1606. SIR G. GOOSECAP [*Old Plays* (1884), iii. 25]. I will preferre thee BACKWARDS (as many FRIENDS do) and leave their friends worse than they found them.

1611. SPEEDE, *Hist. Gt. Britain*, ix. xv. 772. Westmorland thought it safest to checke the Scots as the nearer and continual BACKFRIENDS.

1622. MASSINGER, *Virgin Martyr*, ii. 1. Let him take heed I prove not his BACK-FRIEND.

1684. BURNET, *Tr. Earth*, II. 180. As S. Jerome was an open enemy to this doctrine, so Eusebius was a BACK FRIEND to it.

1725. WODROW, *Cory.* (1843), III. 108. My BACK FRIEND, Mr. Bruce, has now another and heavier author to deal with than I, Bishop Burnet.

1827. SOUTHEY, *Life* (1850), V. 321. But I have had BACK-FRIENDS . . . as well as enemies.

3. (common).—*See quot.*

1864. *Notes and Queries*, 3 S. v. 25. 1. The troublesome splinters of skin which are often formed near the roots of the nails are called stepmother's blessings . . . BACK-FRIENDS.

**BACK-GAMMON.** *See BACKDOOR.*

**BACK-HANDED TURN** (Stock Exchange).—An unprofitable bargain.

**BACK-HANDER**, *subs. phr.* (common).—1. A glass of wine out of turn, the bottle being passed back or retained for a second glass instead of 'following the sun' round the table. Hence **BACK-HAND** (*verb.*) and **BACKHANDING** (*subs.*).

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xliii. Thank you, Mr. Binnie, I will take a **BACKHANDER**, as Clive don't seem to drink.

1857. LAWRENCE, *Guy Livingstone*, viii. Livingstone, if you begin **BACKHANDING** already, you'll never be able to hold that great raking chestnut.

1873. *Sat. Rev.*, 798. A kindly host affects not to notice a valued guest, who . . . helps himself to an innocent **BACKHANDER**.

2. (common).—A blow on the face delivered with the back of the hand; hence an unexpected rebuff, a **SET-DOWN** (*q.v.*).

1836. MARRYAT, *Midshipman Easy*, ii. 'Go away, Sarah,' said Johnny, with a **BACKHANDER**.

c. 1840. MANSFIELD, *School-Life* (1870). The doctor . . . finds Tibbs mopping the rosy . . . with a rueful countenance, having just received a sharp **BACKHANDER**.

1856. WH. MELVILLE, *Kate Coventry*, i. This was . . . a **BACK HANDER** at me, but I . . . only said . . . *Ibid.* (1862), *Inside Bar*, x. This—was obviously a **BACK-HANDER** at James.

1862. FARRAR, *St. Winifred's*, xxxiii. He administered a **BACKHANDER** to Elgood, . . . and the next minute Charlie . . . had knocked him down.

1880. *World*, 21 Aug., 7. The Lieutenant-General got a prompt **BACKHANDER** when he asked for a return of the contributions.

1881. WORBOISE, *Sissie*, xxii. A heavy **BACKHANDER** by way of punishment.

**BACKING AND FILLING**, *adj. phr.* (colloquial).—Shifty; irresolute; shilly-shally: orig. nautical.

1854. *N. Y. Herald*, 15 June. There has been so much **BACKING AND FILLING**, that no confidence can be placed in the declaration which either General Pierce or his cabinet may make.

1865. *Major Downing* [BARTLETT]. A **BACKIN'** AND **FILLIN'** and wrigglin' policy will never fetch any thing about.

**BACKING ON.** *See TURNING-ON.*

**BACKINGS UP**, *subs.* (Winchester College).—The unconsumed ends of half-burned fagots: obsolete.

**BACK JUMP**, *subs.* (thieves').—A back window: *see JUMP* (GROSE).

**BACKMARKED.** *TO BE BACK-MARKED*, *verb.* (pedestrian). In handicapping to receive less start from 'scratch' than previously given.

**BACK-PATERNOSTER.** *See BACKWARDS.*

**BACK-SCRATCHER**, *subs. phr.*—1. A wooden toy on the principle of a watchman's rattle, which, drawn down the back, sounds like the ripping up of cloth: much in favour at fairs and in crowds; its use (in London) is now (1903) prohibited by police order.

2. (colloquial).—A flatterer: hence **BACK-SCRATCHING** = flattery: *cf.* KA ME, KA THEE.

**BACK-SCUTTLE.** *TO HAVE* (or *DO*) A **BACK-SCUTTLE**, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To possess a woman **DOG-FASHION** (*q.v.*).

*See BACK-SLANG.*

**BACK-SEAM.** **TO BE DOWN ON ONE'S BACK-SEAM**, *verb. phr.* (tailors'). — To be down on one's luck.

1899. *WHITEING, John St.*, ix. I . . . lost a shillin' . . . and couldn't go to market for the stock. I tell yer I was DOWN ON MY BACK SEAM then.

**BACK SEAT.** **TO TAKE A BACK SEAT**, *phr.* (American). — To retire into obscurity; to confess failure; to be left behind. [The colloquialism received an immense 'send off' by Andrew Johnson in 1868: 'in the works of Reconstruction traitors should TAKE BACK SEATS.']

1885. *Society*, 7 Feb., 9. This great batting achievement must, however, TAKE A BACK SEAT when compared with the enormous total recently scored by Shaw's Eleven in Australia.

1888. *D. News*, 24 Feb., 5. 2. Any form of art which is barred by its very nature from perfection must TAKE . . . A BACK SEAT.

1890. *Sportsman*, 6 Dec. The idea has been worked to death, and . . . it will have to TAKE A BACK SEAT.

**BACK-SET** (modern = **SET-BACK**). *subs. phr.* (colloquial). — A rebuff; any untoward circumstance; a relapse. Hence TO SET BACK = TO CHECK.

**BACKSIDE**, *subs.* (vulgar). — The posteriors; the BUM (*q.v.*).

c. 1500. *Robin Hood* (RITSON), ii. 4. 236. With an arrowe so broad, he shott him into the BACK-SYDE.

1651. H. MORE, *Sec. Lash. Alas. To Reader.* As if his senses lay in his BACK-SIDE, and had left his brain destitute.

1668. LESTRANGE, *One-vedo* (1678), 184. I have hardly allowed myself a Rag to my BACKSIDE.

1699. VANBRUGH, *False Friend* (OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 139.) There are the new substantives BACKSIDE. (pars posterior), backwardness. . . .

1705. *WARD, Hud. Rediv.*, i. v. 20-1. These wicked Papers . . . doom'd t' illuminate our Pipes Or give our BACKSIDES cleanly Wipes.

1713. ADDISON, *Guardian*, 156 (1756), ii. 288. A poor ant . . . with her head downwards, and her BACKSIDE upwards.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus, 'Scholastic Studies.'* Wo to our BACK-SIDES, he's a greater Whip-Master than Busby himself.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, xxxiii. Between two stools the BACKSIDE falls to the ground. *Ibid.* (1777), *Humph. Clinker* (1900), i. 67. Some clapped their hands and some their BACKSIDES. *Ibid.*, i. 105. Without a shirt to cover your BACK-SIDE from the view of the ladies.

1774. BRIDGES, *Homer Burlesque*, 92. Not one . . . could know . . . on which side his BACKSIDE hung. *Ibid.*, 543. A gap as large and wide As lady . . . 's broad BACK-SIDE.

1827. *Gentl. Mag.*, xcvi. 522. He shall fall on his BACKSIDE.

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 58. What you found out I now discover, *vis.*, that our BACKSIDES want a cover.

**BACK-SLANG**, *subs. phr.* (common). — I. *See* *quot.* and **TERMINAL ESSAY**. Also, as *verb* = to talk in the BACK-SLANG lingo.

1862. WHEATLEY, *Anagrams*, 141. BACK SLANG . . . is formed by the costermongers upon anagrammatical principles; thus look is cool.

1899. *Century Dict.*, s.v. **BACK-SLANG**. A species of slang in which the words are pronounced or written backward, or as nearly so as the skill of the speaker or writer, or the possibility of pronouncing the word, will permit.

2. (old). — *See* *quot.* and **SLUM**.

1875. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. **BACK-SLUM**. A back-room; also the back-entrance to any house or premises; thus, we'll give it 'em on the back slum, means we'll get in at the backdoor. *Ibid.*, s.v. **BACK SLANG**. To enter or come out of a house by the backdoor; or to go a circuitous or private way through the streets, in order to avoid any particular place in the direct road, is termed BACK-SLANGING it.

**Verb.** (Australian).—1. To ask for hospitality on the road: a common and recognised up-country practice.

1868. MORRIS, *Austral-English*. . . Where hotels are naturally scarce and inferior, the traveller asks for hospitality [and] is always made welcome. There is no idea of anything underhand on the part of the traveller.

**BACK-SLUM**, *subs. phr.* (old).—See SLUM 2, adding quots. *infra*. Also see BACK-SLANG.

1821. MONCRIEFF'S *Tom and Jerry*, ii. 5. Let's have a dive among the cadgers in the BACK SLUMS, in the Holy Land. *Jerry*. BACK SLUMS—Holy Land!—I'm at fault again. *Log*. Why, among the beggars in Dyot Street, St. Giles's.

1865. *Athenaeum*, 28 Jan., 124. 1. Imprisoned in the BACK SLUMS of Westminster.

1866. BRADDON, *Joshua Haggard's Daughter*, xx. Not in fetid alleys and festering London BACK-SLUMS only is man's fight with difficulty a bitter and crushing battle.

**BACKSTAIR.** See BACKDOOR.

**BACKSTAIRCASE**, *subs.* (common).—A bustle; a 'dress improver': see BIRDCAGE.

**BACK-STALL.** See STALE, *subs.* 5.

**BACK-TALK**, *subs. phr.* (common).—1. A rude answer; (2) contradiction; (3) an insinuation; and (4) withdrawal from a promise or an accepted invitation (Lanc.): also BACK-WORD and BACK-ANSWER. Hence BACKWARD-ANSWER=a perverse reply; 'No BACK TALK!' = 'Shut up!'

c. 1605. MELVILLE, *Mem.* (1683), 5. Who was so glad as he, to return with this BACKWARD ANSWER.

1884. *Hull Herald*, 28 Feb., 6. 6. The boy was a civil boy, and never gave a BACK ANSWER.

**BACK TEETH.** TO HAVE ONE'S BACK TEETH AFLOAT, *verb. phr.* (common).—To be drunk: see SCREWED.

1888. *Missouri Republican*, 25 Jan. His honour . . . drank until, as an on-looker put it, his BACK TEETH WERE WELL AFLOAT.

**BACK-TIMBER**, *subs. phr.* (common).—Clothes: cf. BELLY-TIMBER.

d. 1656. HALL, *Works*, v. 543. Was there ever more riot and excess in diet and clothes, in belly-cheer and BACK-TIMBER, than we see at this day?

**BACK TOMMY**, *subs phr.* (tailors').—Cloth to cover the 'stays' at the waist.

**BACKTRACK.** TO TAKE THE BACK-TRACK, *verb. phr.* (American).—To retreat; TO BACK OUT (*q.v.*).

1857. *New York Herald*, 26 Dec. Mr. Douglas . . . has gone as far in the slavery concessions to the South as he can possibly go, and that if he would save himself at home he must take the BACK-TRACK.

1887. MORLEY ROBERTS, *Western Avernus*. 'Come, Mac, what's the use of fooling; come with me.' 'No BACKTRACKS, Texas, I'll stay here.'

**BACK-TRADE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A backward course.

1640. LAW, *Exp. into England*, 4. He hath followed the BACK-TRADE of our defection . . . The Lord therefore is still on the BACK-TRADE.

**BACK-TRICK**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A caper backwards in dancing.

1601. SHAKSPEARE, *Twelfth Night*, i. 3. 133. I have the BACK-TRICK simply as strong as any man in Illyria.

**BACKWARD.** A few PHRASES 'fall into alphabet' here: TO SAY (or SING) THE TE DEUM (the LORD'S

PRAYER OR TO SPELL) BACKWARDS=to mutter, to curse: also as a charm: hence BACK-PATER-NOSTER (OR -PRAYER)=an imprecation; TO GO BACKWARDS=to go to the W.C.: *see* MRS. JONES; TO PISS BACKWARDS=TO SHIT (*q.v.*); TO BLOW BACKWARDS=TO FART (*q.v.*); TO LIE (OR FALL) BACKWARDS=to play the whore: frequently extended as in quots. (RAY: 1694 and 1823); TO DO A BACKWARD FALL=(1) TO SPREAD (*q.v.*), and (2) to copulate: *see* GREENS AND RIDE; 'If I were to FALL BACKWARDS, I should break my nose' (RAY: It. *i.e.* 'I am so foiled in everything I undertake'). *See* BACK-TALK.

c. 1575. PARKER, *Corresp.*, 158. Prayers for the Queen's Majesty's prosperity and continuance; where others say THEIR BACK-PATERNOSTERS for her in corners.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, i. 3. 'Dost thou fall upon thy face? Thou wilt FALL BACKWARD when thou has more wit' [Repetition . . .] when thou comest to age. *Ibid.* (1600), *Much Ado*, iii. i. 60. 'I never yet saw man . . . But she would SPELL him BACKWARD . . . So turns she every man the wrong side out.'

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 9. Could BACKWARD BLOW . . . And, by his Farting, make foul Weather.

1672. PHILLIPS, *Maronides*, 120. Seeing the jades prankcs they had plaid, For Iris then they BACKWARD PRAY'D.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, iv. lxiv. 'Are these . . . maids or married . . . Will they LIE BACKWARDS AND LET OUT THEIR FORE-ROOMS. *Ibid.*, v. xxi. Yet more apt TO FALL BACKWARDS whenever any man happened to touch them.'

c. 1700. WARD, *Terraflius*, vi. 'Divertisements.' A new safe-guard to a Woman's Chastity, called Diana's Clogs: In which any Citizen's Wife may walk securely to a Beau's Chamber in the Temple . . . and never FALL BACKWARDS upon the joyful Bed of unlawful Love. *Ibid.*, *Merry Observations*, May. Many

a BACKWARD PRAYER . . . will be given the brave and inobligated Monk, for bringing in his Royal Master, causing the Rump, to be roasted, and making the Oliverian Party PISS BACKWARDS.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, xi. My companion's bowels were disordered he got up in order TO GO BACKWARD.

1771. J. S., *Le Dram's Obs. Surg.*, 164. The Patient being pressed TO GO BACKWARDS went behind his tent.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* (ROUTLEDGE), 113. Just as I was SINGING THE TE DEUM BACKWARDS for his campaigns I heard the clock strike ten.

1823. BEE, *Dict Turf*, s.v. PARLOUR. Mrs Tubbs's front parlour is no part of any building . . . she who is said to LET OUT HER PARLOUR AND LIE BACKWARD, cannot be supposed to repose with her face downwards.

18[?]. NORTON, *Travel in Italy*, 47. The Gospel of Christ is READ BACKWARDS, when that world which he came to save is regarded as a world which it is a merit to abandon.

**BACKWARDATION**, *subs. phr.* (Stock Exchange).—*See* quoats. and *cf.* CONTANGO. Also BACKWARDIZATION.

1850. KEYSER, *Law of the Stock Exchange*. The term BACKWARDATION is employed when stock is more in demand than money, and a premium is given to obtain the loan of stock against its value in money.

c. 1860. FENN, *Eng. and For. Funds* (1883), 127. BACKWARDATION is paid by the speculator for the fall, or the Bear, in order to postpone delivery until the following account.

1865. *Pub. Opinion*, 38 Nov., 541. 2. 'BACKWARDIZATION' expresses . . . the sum which a seller pays for not being obliged to deliver the shares at the time before agreed upon, but to carry them over to the following account.

1880. *Society*, 3 Sep., 16. The Bear a good contango loves, The Bull a BACKWARDATION.

1883. *Pall Mall Gas.*, 11 Sep., 9. 2. At the opening  $\frac{1}{2}$  BACKWARDATION to  $\frac{1}{2}$  contango was charged.

1886. *D. News*, 14 Dec. 6. 1. The 1873 loan is, on balance, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  lower, at 94, after being 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The BACKWARDATION on the stock went off at the close.

**BACK-WORD.** *See* BACK-TALK.

**BACKY**, *subs.* (tailors').—A shopmate working behind another.

**BACON**, *subs.* (common).—1. Generic for rusticity. Thus BACON-SLICER (BACON-CHOPS or CHAW-BACON)=a rustic; BACON-BRAINS=a stupid clodhopper: hence BACON-BRAINED (-FACED, or -FED)=clownish, dull (BEE and GROSE): also BACON-FACED (or -SIDE)=fat-jowled, fat, sleek; BACON-PICKER=a glutton.

1506. SHAKSPEARE, *i Hen. IV.*, ii. 2. 89. BACON-FED knaves . . . down with them. *Ibid.*, ii. 2. 93. On, BACONS, on! what ye knaves? Young men must live.

c. 1600. DAY, *Beggar Bednell Green* (1881), 37. I'de hang this BACON-FAC'D slave orethwart his shanks.

c. 1634. RANDOLPH, *Ans. Ben Jonson [Poems]* (1668), 56. Their BACON-BRAINS have such a tast As more delights in mast.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, 1. Prol. A certain gulligul Fryer and true BACON PICKER. *Ibid.*, i. xv. Account me a very clounch, and BACON-SLICER of Brene.

1684. OTWAY, *Atheist*, i. A broad shining, puff BACON-FACE, like a Cherubim.

1711. WARD, *Quixote*, i. 81. So cocking by his BACON-SIDE An Elbow, thus the Host reply'd.

1731. *Pol. Ballads* (1860), ii. 223. He opulent grew As BACON-FACE Jew.

2. (common).—The human body. Whence to SAVE ONE'S BACON=to save appearances, to escape injury or loss (B. E., GROSE, BEE): Fr. *sauver son lard*; to SELL ONE'S BACON=(1) to work for hire, and spec. (2) to play the harlot for bread; TO RUB, FROT, OR SCRAPE BACON=to copulate: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

1362. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman*, 2859. As a letheren purs Lolleth his chekkes . . . And as a bonde-man of his BACON his berd was bi-dravled.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. iii. These two did oftentimes do the two-backed beast together, joyfully RUBBING and FROTTING THEIR BACON against one another. *Ibid.*, ii. xxi. How happy shall that man be to whom you will grant the favour to embrace her, to kiss her, and to RUB his BACON with hers. *Ibid.*, MOTTEUX (1699), iv. ix. Those . . . must needs stink damnably . . . when they have RUBBED their BACON one with the other. *Ibid.*, v. iv. Your gaoil birds, who . . . warily scour off, and come here TO SAVE THEIR BACON.

1674. *Hogan-Moganides*, 31. A Buxom Wench, and Jolly Pug, Who together SCRAPING BACON At length they found that she had taken. *Ibid.* 89. Melting his BACON in the Sun.

1691. *Weesils*, 1. 5. No, they'l conclude I do't to SAVE MY BACON.

1693. *England's Jester* [ASHTON, *Humour*, etc., 23]. She was resolved to go [to church] once a month to SAVE HER BACON.

1693. *Catalogue of Books* [Harl. Misc. (1745), v. 269. 2]. In dubius tutor pars; Or the broad Way TO SAVE A MAN'S BACON, and damn his soul.

d. 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 150. E'en get your Friends, the Jews, to SAVE YOUR BACON.

1705. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, i. ii. 12. For could their talent be forsaken, And they unite truth TO SAVE THEIR BACON.

1721. CENTLIVRE, *Artifice*, v. ii. That pretence shan't SAVE YOUR BACON, you old villain you.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Peregrine Pickle*, xxv. The other, who refused any other satisfaction but that which an officer ought to claim . . . asked if Perry was afraid of his BACON.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 20. If haste I hither come, says Pallas, To SAVE YOUR BACON from the gallows.

1796. HOLMAN, *A broad and at Home*, ii. 4. 'Tis Heaven's mercy I was a likely lad. My beauty has SAV'D MY BACON.

1812. COMBE, *Picturesque*, vi. 22. But as he ran to SAVE HIS BACON By hat and wig he was forsaken.

1823. BYRON, *Don Juan*, vi. xlii.  
But here I say the Turks were much mis-  
taken, who, hating hogs, yet wished to  
SAVE THEIR BACON.

1825. CARLYLE, *Schiller*, iii. (1845),  
163. To the Kaiser, therefore, I SOLD MY  
BACON, And by him good charge of the  
whole is taken.

1836. SCOTT, *Cringle's Log*, v. You  
know I SAVED YOUR BACON in that awk-  
ward affair.

1856. READE, *Never Too Late*, iii.  
Jem drew a long breath and said brutally  
... 'You have SAVED YOUR BACON this  
time.'

TO PULL BACON, *verb. phr. (popular)*.—Described in the *Ingoldsby Legends*: 'He put his thumb unto his nose and spread his fingers out.' TO TAKE A SIGHT *q.v.*), TO MAKE QUEEN ANNE'S FAN *(q.v.)*.

1886. *Household Words*, Oct. 2, p.  
453. [This] action has been described  
as 'taking a sight.' A solicitor, however,  
at Manchester, described it as PULLING  
BACON.

1887. *Leeds Ev. News*, 15 Sep.,  
Police Report. The officers spoke to  
him, when he put his fingers to his nose  
and PULLED BACON at them.

PHRASES. A good voice to beg  
BACON ('Said in jear of an ill  
voice' (B. E. and GROSE);  
'When the devil is a hog, you  
shall eat BACON' (RAY).

**BAD (or BADLY), *adj.* and *adv.* (colloquial).**—Very much; greatly.  
Also **COLLOQUIAL PHRASES**: TO  
GO TO THE BAD=to go to ruin (*cf.*  
VIRGIL: *in pejus ruere*=to go  
to the worse); TO BE [anything]  
TO THE BAD=to show a deficit, to  
be on the wrong side of an  
account; TO COME BACK AGAIN  
LIKE A BAD PENNY=(1) of  
anything unwelcome, and (2) a  
jocular assurance of return; NOT  
HALF BAD=fairly good; BAD TO

BEAT=difficult to excel; TO  
WANT BADLY=the superlative of  
desire; CRUEL BAD=very bad.  
Also 'Give a dog a BAD name and  
you may hang him.'

1816. QUIZ, *Grand Master*, viii. 25.  
I've really TO THE BAD Some thousands of  
rupees to add.

1835. DANA, *Before the Mast*, xv.  
The captain took a dislike to him, thought  
he was surly and lazy; and, 'if you once  
give a dog a BAD name—as the sailor  
phrase is—"he may as well jump over-  
board.'

1864. TROLLOPE, *Lindisfarne Chase*,  
i. 46. [He] went, as the common saying  
expressively phrases it, TO THE BAD.

1864. BRADDON, *Aurora Floyd*, xi.  
A reckless man, ready TO GO TO THE BAD  
by any road that can take me there.

1880. SIMS, *Ballads of Babylon*  
(*Beauty and Beast*). Let him GO TO THE  
BAD at his own mad pace.

1884. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 6 Feb., 4. He  
was between £70 and £80 TO THE BAD.

1884. HAWLEY SMART, *Post to  
Finish*, xi. When they are in the mood,  
their very temper makes them BAD TO  
BEAT.

1888. *Daily Inter-Ocean*, 9 March.  
Myers' absence is seriously annoying  
to the defense, [they] want Myers, and  
WANT HIM BAD.

**BAD BARGAIN, *subs. phr. (military)*.**  
—See Q.H.B., adding quot. *infra*.

1899. WYNNDHAM, *Queen's Service*,  
240. Many of these BAD BARGAINS  
promptly transfer their services elsewhere,  
without . . . mentioning the cause which  
led to their discharge.

**BAD-BREAK, *subs. phr. (American)*.**  
—A corruption of 'bad outbreak.'

**BAD CROWD GENERALLY, *subs.  
phr. (Western American)*.**—In  
sing.=a mean wretch; NO GREAT  
SHAKES (*q.v.*).

**BAD-EGG** (-HALFPENNY, -HAT, -LOT, -PENNY, etc.), *subs. phr.* (common).—I. A ne'er-do-well ; a 'loose fish' : in America more indefinitely used than in England. Also (old)=a bad or risky speculation, Fr. *mauvais gobet*. [Cf. provincial (Cumb.) BAD=a strum-pet.]

1863. *LANGLAND, Piers Plowman*, c. xviii. 73. [Men may lykne letterid men . . . to a BADDE PENNY.]

1785. *GROSE, Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. BAD HALFPENNY. When a man has been upon any errand, or attempting any object which has proved unsuccessful or impracticable, he will say on his return, It is a BAD HALFPENNY, meaning that he has returned as he went.

1849. *THACKERAY, Pendennis*, lx. 'He's a bad'un, Mr. Lightfoot—a BAD LOT, sir, and that you know.'

1866. *SALA, Trip to Barbary*, 130. The man in black baize with the felt kepi . . . looked from head to heel a BAD EGG.

1867. *LELAND, Breitmann Ballads*. But one gray-haired old veller shimiled crimly und bet Dat Breitmann vould prove a PAD EGG for dem yet.

1868. *BRADDON, Trail of the Serpent*, ii. I am BAD LOT. I wonder they don't hang such men as me. *Ibid.* (1872), *Dead Sea Fruit*, i. So BAD A LOT that he dare not give himself a decent character.

1877. *BLACKMORE, Erema*. A very handsome girl she may be, but a BAD LOT, as her father was.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude* ii. Many of the officials of the convict prisons . . . are what the Yankees call BAD EGGS.

1883. *BESANT, Captain's Room*, ii. ix. There may be one or two BAD HATS among eldest sons ; but . . . there cannot be one who would dare to take his wife's salary and deprive her of her son.

1885. *STAVELEY HILL, From Home to Home*. A considerable feeling . . . that he was a BAD EGG, and they even went so far as to suggest that the sooner he had a bullet in him the better.

1890. *HYNE, Furth. Capt. Kettle*, iii. We've a good deal in common : we're all BAD EGGS, and we're none of us fit for our billets.

i. 1900. *BOOTHBY, Maker of Nations*, i. That French chap is a BAD HAT.

**BAD FORM**, *subs. phr.* (society).—Conduct not in keeping with a conventional standard ; vulgarity.

1882. *PUNCH*. ETON BOY. What an awful lot of energy you've got, uncle ! UNCLE. Pretty well, my boy, for my time of life, I think ! E. B. Yes ! but energy's such awful BAD FORM, you know !

1896. *N. Amer. Rev.*, cxlii. 621. They are taught that to become emotional or enthusiastic over anything is BAD FORM.

1889. *Answers*, 23 Feb., 205. 3. He's awfully BAD FORM—a regular cad, you know.

**BADGE**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—A mark of Distinction among poor People ; as Porters, Water-men, Parish-Pensioners, and Hospital-blooms, Blew-coats and Badges being the ancient Liveries' (B. E.). Hence BADGE-COVE (or -MAN)=a parish pensioner (GROSE).

1809. *CRABBE, Tales*, 16. With thick-set coat of BADGE-MAN's blue.

**TO HAVE ONE'S BADGE**, *verb. phr.* (old).—To be burned in the hand : e.g. 'He has got his BADGE and piked' = He has been burned in the hand and set at liberty (GROSE).

**BADGER**, *subs.* (B. E.).—I. 'They that buy up a quantity of Corn and hoard it up in the same Market, till the price rises ; or carry it to another where it bears a better.' [O.E.D. : Origin unknown : Fuller derived it from L. *bajutare*, to carry (as if a cant contraction BAJ., cf. the modern *zoo*, *cab*, etc.), but evidence is required before this can be admitted for the 15c. . . . By Act 5 and 6 Ed. VI. c. 14. 7, BADGERS were required to be licensed by the Justices (the origin of the hawker's license.)]

2. (Old Cant).—A river desperado; ‘villains who rob near rivers, into which they throw the bodies of those they murder’ (GROSE): *see* ARK-RUFFIAN.

3. (American thieves).—A PANEL-THIEF (*q.v.*): hence BADGER-CRIB.

4. (schoolboy).—A red-haired individual.

5. (harlotry).—A common prostitute: *see* TART.

6. (nautical).—The impersonator of Neptune in the festivities incident to ‘crossing the line’: also BADGER-BAG; *see* AMBASSADOR and ARTHUR.

9. (Wellington School).—A member of the 2nd XV. at football. [A badge is worn by each individual: *see* sense 1.]

8. (artists’).—A brush: spec. when made of badgers’ hair.

#### 9. *See* BADGER STATE.

*Verb.* (colloquial).—To worry unceasingly: as a badger when baited; to pester: usually of a helpless victim (BEE). Hence BADGERED = worried, teased; BADGERING = ‘heckling,’ persecution. Fr. *aguigner*.

1794. WOLCOT, *Rowl. for Oliver* [Works, II. 163]. Therefore I tremble for his BADGER'D bacon.

1796. BURKE, *Letter to Lawrence*, 16 Dec. He would rather be defeated on the Rhine or Po than suffer a BADGERING every day in the House of Commons.

1798. O. KEEFE, *Wild Oats*, I. 1. At home, abroad, you will still BADGER me.

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxxiv. Each was driven to the verge of desperation by excessive BADGERING. *Ibid.* (1840), *Barnaby Rudge* (1866), I. xii. 59. The constant BADGERING and worrying of his venerable parent.

1850. THACKERAY, *Pendennis* [Works (1860), IV. 59]. I’m so pressed and BADGERED, I don’t know where to turn.

1855. WOOD, *Anec. Animal Life*, 238. A ‘brock’ . . . led such a persecuted life, that to ‘BADGER’ a man came to be the strongest possible term for irritating, persecuting, and injuring him in every way.

1862. *Sat. Rev.* 8 Feb., 154. The coarse expedients by which the Old Bailey advocate BADGERS and confuses a nervous witness.

1862. TROLLOPE, *Orley Farm* [Century]. When one has to be BADGERED like this one wants a drop of something more than ordinary.

d. 1871. CAROLINE FOX, *Journal*, 542. Inconsistent professors . . . BADGERED him out of Methodism into scepticism.

TO OVERDRAW THE BADGER,  
*verb. phr.* (popular).—To overdraw a banking account.

1843-4. HOOD, *Miss Kilmansegg*. His cheeks no longer drew the cash, Because, as his comrades explain’d in flash, He had OVERDRAWN HIS BADGER.

**BADGER-BOX**, *subs. phr.* (Australian).—*See* quot.

1875. *Proceedings Royal Society Tasmania*, Sept., 99. The dwellings . . . are . . . known as ‘BADGER-BOXES,’ in distinction from huts, which have perpendicular walls, while the BADGER-BOX is like an inverted V in section. They are covered with bark, with a thatch of grass along the ridge, and are on an average about 14 x 10 feet at the ground, and 9 or 10 feet high.

**BADGERLY**, *adv.* (old colloquial).—Elderly; grey-haired: *cf.* ‘Grey as a badger.’

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, v. xliii. BADGERLY virgins fond of a parrot, a squirrel, a monkey, or a lapdog.

**BADGER STATE**, *subs. phr.* (American).—The State of Wisconsin. [BADGERS once abounded there.] Whence BADGER = an inhabitant of Wisconsin.

1856. EMERSON, *Eug. Traits*, iv. 54; Our 'Hoosiers,' 'Suckers' and 'BADGERS' of the American woods.

**BAD GIVE-AWAY.** *See GIVE AWAY.*

**BAD-HALFPENNY.** *See BAD-EGG.*

**BAD JOB**, *subs. phr.* (old: B. E.).—'An ill bout, bargain, or business.'

**BAD MAN**, *subs. phr.* (Western American).—*See* *quot.*

1888. ROOSEVELT, *Ranch Life*. [A BAD MAN] is generally understood to mean a professional fighter or man-killer, but who is sometimes perfectly honest. These men who do most of the killing in frontier communities: yet the men who are killed generally deserve their fate. They are used to brawling, are sure shots, and able to 'draw' their weapon with marvellous quickness. They think nothing of murder, are the terror of their associates, yet are very chary of taking the life of a man of good standing, and will often 'weaken' and 'back down' at once if confronted fearlessly. Stockmen have united to put down these dangerous characters, and many localities once infested by BAD MEN are now perfectly law-abiding. [Abridged.]

**BAD MATCH TWIST**, *subs. phr.* (hairdressers').—Red (or caroty) hair and black whiskers.

**BADMINTON**, *subs.* (common).—I. 1. A kind of claret-cup: claret, sugar, spice, soda-water, and ice. [Invented at the Duke of Beaufort's seat of the same name.]

1845. DISRAEIL, *Sybil*, i. i. Waiter, bring me a tumbler of BADMINTON. *Ibid.* (1870), *Lothair*, xxx. Soothed or stimulated by fragrant cheroots or beakers of BADMINTON.

1853. WHYTE MELVILLE, *Digby Grand*, ix. An enormous measure of BADMINTON, that grateful compound.

1868. OUIDA, *Under Two Flags*, ix. A great silver flagon of BADMINTON, with which he was ending his breakfast.

2. (pugilistic).—Blood: *cf.* CLARET, ROSY, etc..

**BAD SHOT.** *See SHOT.*

**BAD SLANG**, *subs. phr.* (circus and showmen's).—Fake'd up monstrosities; spurious curiosities: *see SLANG*, *subs.* 7.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 266. The best showman of a BAD SLANG that ever travelled. He would get hold of any black girl . . . dress her up, and then show her as one of the greatest novelties.

**BAD WAY.** *See WAY.*

**BAFF.** *See BUFF.*

**BAG**, *subs.* (old).—I. The womb. Hence as *verb* (or to BE BAGGED) = to become pregnant, to get big with child; BAGGED = LUMPY (*q. v.*): properly of animals; BAG-PUDDING = pregnancy: *cf.* 'Sweet-heart and BAG-PUDDING' (RAY).

1598. FLORIO, *World of Wordes*, s.v.

1606. WARNER, *Albion's England*, vi. 148. Well, Venus shortly BAGGED, and ere long was Cupid bred.

1608. DAY, *Hum. out of Br.*, ii. 1. 25. Farewell, sweet heart—God a mercy, BAG-PUDDING.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v.

1676. ROCHESTER, *Hist. of Insipids*, 14. Had haughty Holms but call'd in Spragg, Hans had been PUT INTO A BAG.

2. (common).—The stomach: hence as *verb* = to feed, to fill the stomach; BAGGING = food: spec. (North) food eaten between meals, or (Lanc.) a substantial afternoon repast, 'high tea'; hence BAGGING-TIME.

1750. COLLIER [*Lancashire Glossary* (E.D.S.)]. Hoo'l naw cum agen till BAGGIN' TIME.

1787. BURNS, *Auld Mare Maggie*. A guid New-year I wish thee, Maggie! Hae, there's a ripp to thy auld BAGGIE.

1835. URE, *Philos. Manuf.*, 387. Thurst must be quenched with tea at BAGGING-TIME.

1863. WAUGH, *Lanc. Songs*, 29. The BAGGIN' were ready, an' o' lookin' sweet.

1870. *Chambers's Journ.*, Oct., p. 661. There are all the varieties of board and lodging, dinner of potatoes and bacon with buttermilk, BAGGING in the forenoon and afternoon, dinner and lunch, and rations allowed for women.

1879. TEMPLE BAR, 4 Jan. BAGGIN' is not only lunch, but any accidental meal coming between two regular ones.

1899. WYNDHAM, *Queen's Service*, 14. Now, you youngsters, don't sit there blowing your BAGS out any longer, like a couple of blooming young pigs.

3. (common).—In *pl.*=the paps; DUGS (*q.v.*): properly of animals.

1642. MORE, *Pre-Existence Soul*, xlvi. Those wicked hags . . . whose writhed BAGS Foul fiends oft suck.

4. (Stock Exchange).—Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Bonds.

1903. *Westminster Gazette*, 28 Mar., 9, 3. BAGS Dividend [Title].

5. (common).—In *pl.*=loosely-fitting clothes: spec. trousers: also BUMBAGS: whence HOWLING BAGS=breeches of 'loud' pattern or cut, and GO-TO-MEETING BAGS='Sunday clothes,' one's best wear: see KICKS. Hence BAGGY=stretched by wear; BAGGILY=loosely; TO BAG=to sag; BAG-SLEEVE=a sleeve BAGGY above, and tight at, the wrist.

c. 1350. WILLIAM OF PALERNE [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 44]. The curious word BAKKES (vestes) appears in p. 72; it seems to be Salopian . . . we still have the slang term BAGS for an important part of our raiment; Lord Eldon was called [1801-27] 'OLD BAGS'.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. *Socchi*, a kind of socke . . . or BAGGING shooe vsed in old time.

1824. IRVING, *Tales of a Traveller*, i. 265. A coat which BAGGED loosely about him.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, 51. Just jump into a pair of BAGS and Wellingtons. *Ibid.*, 5. His black GO-TO-MEETING BAGS.

1858. HAWTHORN, *Fr. and It. Journals* (1872), i. 22. Red BAGGY trousers.

1859. TAYLOR, *Logic in Theol.*, 205. Dingy embroidered trappings . . . seen BAGGING upon the wooden effigies.

1860. SMILES, *Self-Help*, vii. He . . . only appears stout because he puts himself into those BAGS.

1862. GRONOW, *Remin.*, i. 113. Black coats . . . BAGGILY made.

1868. *Lessons Mid. Age*, 123. A BAGGY cotton umbrella.

1870. *Chambers's Journal* (Christmas Number). Holla! Parsons don't wear light tweed BAGS! . . . Jack had to unpack his portmanteau and get out his evening inexpressibles.

1874. COLLINS, *Frances*, xv. His well-shaped hip and calf were hidden in loose-fitting BAGS of corduroy.

1878. BOSWORTH SMITH, *Carthage*, 434. Jews with their BAGGING pantaloons.

1880. PUNCH, 10 Jan., 6. Just look at these BAGS you last built me, Snippe! J'ever see such beastly BAGS in your life?

1882. *Nat. Baptist*, xviii. 6. A BAGGINESS about the trousers.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 40. For he noticed that his BAGS had developed into rags. *Ibid.*, 109. His BAGS have faded at the knees.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xxi. Chinymen . . . They're fly, and no mistake. Pretends to wear petticoats; got BAGS on underneath.

1900. KIPLING, *Stalky & Co.*, 44. 'Confound you! You haven't been popping my Sunday BAGS?'

6. (Westminster School).—  
In *sing.* = milk.

7. (sporting).—The contents of a game bag; the result of sport: said of racing as of fishing, shooting, etc., and alike of a big game expedition as of a day in the stubble. As *verb* (or TO BRING TO BAG)=to shoot, to kill, to catch.

1814. *Month. Mag.*, XXXVII. 238. To allow the royal sportsman TO BAG more birds than himself.

1844. HAWKES, *Instr. Young Sportsman*, 148. To BAG a dozen head of game without missing.

1859. JEPHSON, *Brittany*, ix. 150. My friend, thus BAGGED two wolves.

1863. SPEKE, *Disc. Nile*, 36. The BAGS we made counted two, brindled gnu, four water-boc, one pallah-boc, and one pig.

1864. LOWELL, *Fireside Travels*, 245. The disputes of Italians are very droll things, and I will accordingly BAG the one which is now imminent as a specimen. *Ibid.* (1870), *Study Windows*, i. Stopping . . . to BAG a specimen.

1867. FRANCIS, *Angling*, i. (1880), 29. The art in roach-fishing alone will make a fair BAG on an indifferent day.

1881. SIR W. HARCOURT, *Speech at Glasgow*, 26 Oct. Lord Salisbury and Sir S. Northcote . . . had a rattling day at Newcastle and Beverley—but I ask myself what is their BAG.

1880. *Forest and Stream*, xxi. 2. The BAG is not the sole aim of a day afield.

1885. SMART, *Tie and Trick*, ii. A Markee . . . whose BAG consisted of a fox, a boy, half a pheasant, and the fragments of a rabbit.

*Verb.* (1). *See subs. senses.*

2. (common).—To acquire; to secure: *i.e.* to seize, catch, or steal: *cf.* NAB, COP, BONE, etc. Whence (old) BAGGER=a miser; BAGGED = (1) got, and (2) QUODDED (*q.v.*).

1740. *Collect. Sir T. Scot* [PECK, Cromwell]. He spent, and lookt for no reward, He could not play the BAGGER.

1818. MOORE, *Fudge Family in Paris*, vi. Who can help to BAG a few, When Sidmouth wants a death or two?

1824. BRYON, *Don Juan*, xvi. lxii. The constable . . . Had BAGGED this poacher upon Nature's manor.

1847. HUGHES, *Tom Brown*, II. iii. 268. The idea of being led up to the Doctor . . . for BAGGING fowls.

1861. MÜLLER, *Chips* (1880), II. xxiv.

243. A stray story may thus be BAGGED in the West-End of London.

1862. FARRAR, *St. Winifred's*, XXXV. They would not call it stealing but BAGGING a thing, or, at the worst, 'cribbing it'—concealing the villainy under a new name.

1878. *Song* [HINDLEY, *Life Catnach*]. Speak to the tattler, BAG the swag, And finely hunt the dummy.

1880. M. COLLINS, *My Garden*, I. 163. The word beggar itself is from BAG—meaning a man who carries a bag; and the modern commercial slang reproduces the phrase, saying of a clever man of business that he has BAGGED a good thing.

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Straight Tie*. The merry little dibbs you'll BAG.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, xv. I've BAGGED one of your lot, and you've done your best to pot me.

*Intj.* (schoolboy).—BAGS! or BAGS I! to assert a claim to some article or privilege. *Cf.* FAINS OR FAIN IT (*q.v.*)=a demand for a truce during a game, which is always granted: PIKE I or PRIOR PIKE likewise serves to lay claim to anything, or to assert priority. Also BAR! *e.g.* 'He wanted me to do so and so, but I barred not.'

PHRASES. TO TURN TO BAG AND WALLET=to turn beggar; TO GIVE ONE THE BAG TO HOLD (RAY)=to slip off: also to leave in the lurch; TO GIVE THE BAG =(1) to leave without warning (*GROSE*), also (2) to dismiss, and

(3) to cheat (WEBSTER): *see* CANVAS, SACK, and WALLET; TO LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG = to disclose a trick or secret (*see* CAT); TO EMPTY THE BAG = to tell all: also to close an argument (Fr. *vider le sac*); TO PUT ONE IN A BAG (*see* quot. 1662); TO PUT (or GET) ONE'S HEAD IN A BAG (printers') = to drink: BAG = pot of beer; TO TAKE THE BAG = to play the hare in 'Hare and Hounds'; TO HAVE THE BAGS = (1) to come of age, and (2) = to be flush of money; TO BAG THE OVER (*see* JOCKEY).

1592. GREENE, *Quip* [Works, ix. 263]. You shall be . . . lighte wittid upon every small occasion to geue thy maister THE BAGGE. *Ibid.* (1592), *Defence of Conny Catching*, xi. 86. If he meane to GIVE HER THE BAGGE, he selleth whatsoeuer he can, and so leaues his spoild both of his wealth and honestie.

1599. HAKLUYT, *Voy.*, ii. i. 161. The TURNING TO BAG AND WALLET of the infinite number of the poore people imploied in clothynge.

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Ho*, iv. 2 [Works (1673), ii. 340]. I fear our oares haue GIUEN US THE BAG.

1647. *Speedy Hye and Crie*, i. . . He being sometime an Apprentice on London Bridge . . . GAVE his master THE BAG.

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, *Cardigan* (ii. 579). They (the Welsh) had a kind of play wherein the stronger who prevailed put the weaker into a sack; and hence we have borrowed our English by-word to express such, betwixt whom there is apparent odds of strength. 'He is able to PUT HIM UP IN A BAGGE.'

1793. JEFFERSON, *Writings* (1859), iv. 7. She will LEAVE Spain THE BAG TO HOLD.

1823. SCOTT, *Peveril*, vii. She GAVE ME THE BAG to hold and was smuggling in a corner with a rich old Puritan.

1887. *Sat. Review*, 14 May, p. 700. It is slang, and yet purely trade slang, when one printer says of another that he has GOT HIS HEAD IN THE BAG.

*See* BLUE-BAG; CARPET-BAGGER; CAT; GREEN-BAG; NOSE-BAG; WIND-BAG.

**BAG-AND-BAGGAGE**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—One's belongings: hence TO CLEAR (or TURN) OUT BAG-AND-BAGGAGE = to make a good riddance: in depreciation. [O.E.D.: Originally a military phrase denoting all the property of an army collectively, and of the soldiers individually; hence the phrase, orig. said to the credit of an army or general, 'To march out with BAG-AND-BAGGAGE' (Fr. *vie et bagues sauves*); i.e. with all belongings saved . . . to make an honourable retreat.] BAG-AND-BAGGAGE POLICY = wholesale surrender, general scuttling, 'peace at any price.'

[1600. SHAKSPEARE, *As You Like It*, iii. 2. 170. Let us make an honourable retreat, though not with BAGGE AND BAGGAGE, yet with scrip and scrippage.]

c. 1620. MIDDLETON, *Witch* (1778), 35. To kick this fellow . . . And send him downe stayres with his BAG AND BAGGAGE.

1632. JONSON, *Magnetic Lady*, iv. 1. The doxy to march round the circuit With BAG AND BAGGAGE.

1741. RICHARDSON, *Pamela*, ii. 34. BAG AND BAGGAGE, said she, I'm glad you're going.

1853. READE, *Gold*, i. Well, then, next Lady-day you TURN OUT BAG-AND-BAGGAGE.

1870. SPURGEON, *Treasury of David*, Psalm cxix. 115. The king sent him packing BAG AND BAGGAGE.

1876. GLADSTONE, *Bulg. Horrors*, 61. The Turks . . . their Tapiests and their Mudirs . . . their Haimakams, and their Pashas, one and all, BAG AND BAGGAGE, shall, I hope, clear out from the province they have desolated and profaned.

1882. *D. News*, 28 May, 5. 6. Cites the famous Bulgarian pamphlet, pre-cognising the BAG-AND-BAGGAGE POLICY as evidence that Mr. Gladstone will never be a party to restoring Turkish authority.

**BAG AND BOTTLE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—Provisions; food and drink: cf. BACK AND BELLY.

[...., *Old Ballad*, 'Robin Hood and Shepherd' [NARES]. Arise, arise, said jolly Robin, And now come let me see What's in thy BAG AND BOTTLE, I say? Come tell it unto me].

1671. **EACHARD**, *Observations*. An ill-contriving rascal that in his younger years should choose to lug the BAG AND THE BOTTLE a mile or two to school; and to bring home only a small bit of Greek or Latin most magisterially construed.

**BAGATELLE**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—A trifle; a matter of little worth or consequence. As *adj.* = trumpery, trifling. [O.E.D.]: 'Formerly quite naturalised; now scarcely so.]

1637. **BASTWICK**, *Litany*, i. 17. All which they haue . . . overthowne with their BAGATELLE invention.

c. 1645. **HOWELL**, *Fam. Letters*, ii. xxi. Your trifles and BAGATELLS are ill bestowed upon me, therfore hereafter I pray let me have of your best. *Ibid.* I rummag'd all my stores, and search'd my cells, Wher nought appear'd, God wot, but BAGATELLS.

1658. **ROBINSON**, *Eudoxa*, i. 4. Every particular thing . . . even unto the smallest BAGATELLO'S.

1659. **GAUDEN**, *Tears of the Church*, 102. To please themselves with toyes and BAGATELLOES.

1679. **BEHN**, *Feigned Court*, ii. 1. Ah BAGATELLES, Seignior, BAGATELLES.

c. 1733. **NORTH**, *Examen*, ii. v. 100. He makes a mere BAGATEL of it.

1786. **JEFFERSON**, *Writ.* (1859), i. 566. As to the satisfaction for slaves carried off, it is a BAGATELLE.

1872. **BAKER**, *Nile Trib.*, iv. 53. The bona fide tax is a BAGATELLE to the amounts squeezed from him by the soldiery.

**BAGGAGE**, *subs.* (once literary; now American).—I. Luggage, portable property; BELONGINGS (*g.v.*): spec. (still in use) = the equipment

of an army. Hence BAG-AND-BAGGAGE (*g.v.*). Whence (American) BAGGAGE-CHECK = (1) a luggage-ticket, (2) a cloak-room ticket; BAGGAGE-MAN (or MASTER) = a guard in charge of luggage; BAGGAGE-ROOM = a parcels office or cloak-room; BAGGAGE-SMASHER = (1) a porter, and (2) a station thief. (*See quot. 1861.*)

c. 1430. *Pol. Rel. Poems* [E.E.T.S.], 18. To gete hem BAGAGE, put hem sylfe in pres.

c. 1450. **CHAUCER** [?], *Dreme* [Works (BELL)], 101. Was left not one, Horse, male, trusse, ne BAGGAGE.

1530. **PALSGRAVE**, *Lang. Franc.*, 196. 2. BAGGAGE, Bagniagie.

1578. T. N. [tr. *Cong. W. India*]. Indians . . . to serve and to cary BAGGAGE.

1703. **MAUNDRELL**, *Jour. Jerus.* (1732), ii. Arrived with all our BAGGAGE on the other side of the River.

1740. **SOMLETT**, *Gil Blas* (1812), vii. xi. I sole study being . . . to escape with my household goods, I mean my BAGGAGE.

1749. **FIELDING**, *Tom Jones*, vii. xi. The portmanteau . . . being put up into the BAGGAGE-CART.

1766. **GOLDSMITH**, *Vicar Wakefield*, xx. Mrs. Arnold politely offered to send . . . for my son's BAGGAGE.

1791. **BOSWELL**, *Johnson* (1831), iii. 13. Intrusted to a fellow to be delivered to our BAGGAGE-MAN.

1854. **TAYLOR**, *Lands of the Saracen*, 18. We were told to get our BAGGAGE in order and embark for quarantine.

18[?]. **THACKERAY** [*Century*]. Mounting the baronet's BAGGAGE on the roof of the coach.

18[?]. *Supreme Court Reports*, i. 52. A passenger having lost her BAGGAGE CHECK.

1861. *New York Tribune*, 23 Nov. Gamblers, . . . robbers, BAGGAGE-SMASHERS, and all the worst classes of the city.

1871. DE VERE, *Americanisms*, 358. The BAGGAGE-SMASHER . . . handles his burdens with appalling recklessness, and responsibility there is none.

1880. *New Virginians*, 1. 37. Called BAGGAGE-SMASHERS.

1883. *Pall Mall Gas.*, 14 June. The Saratoga trunks are hurled recklessly by the 'BAGGAGE SMASHERS' on to the deck.

1883. CRANE [*Leis. Hour*, 282. 1]. The BAGGAGE-MASTERS leapt from their wide doors.

1883. *Longman's Mag.*, July, 285. The wretched little booking-office, and the BAGGAGE-ROOM.

1883. PEMBER [*Harp. Mag.*, Dec., 110. 1]. Keep a sharp look out on your BAGGAGE.

1888. *Texas Siftings*, 3 Nov. The BAGGAGE-SMASHER is indeed a terror.

2. (old colloquial). — Generic for trash: *e.g.* encumbrances, rubbish, dirt, pus. Whence (spec. post-Reformation) = the rites and accessories of Catholic ritual: *cf.* sense 3. As *adj.* = trumpery (also BAGGAGELY), corrupt, vile.

1538. BALE, *Thre Lawes*, 1716. And shall thy BAGGAGE put by the word of God?

1545. ASCHAM, *Toxoph.* [ARBER], 83. A boke . . . wherein he . . . setteth oute much risrafte, pelfery, trumpery, BAGGAGE, and beggerie ware.

1548. UDALL, *Erasm. Par. N. T.*, Pref. 10. The trashe and BAGGUAGE stuf . . . this man hath sifted out.

1549. OLDE, *Erasm. Par. Eph.*, Prol. Ciiij. This popyshe BAGGAGE of dumme ceremonies.

1566. KNOX, *Hist. Ref.* [Works (1846), 1. 191]. Pilgremage, pardonis, and other sic BAGGAGE.

1570. ELDERTON, *Lenton Stiffe*. But he that seekest to set to sale, Such BAGGAGE as ys olde and stale Heys lyke to tell another tale.

1573. TUSSER, *Husb.* (1878), 35. No storing of pasture with BAGGEDLIE tit.

1576. NEWTON, *Lemni's Complex.* (1633), 177. Affected with this BAGGAGE phlegme and distilling humour. *Ibid.*, 118. Naughty BAGGAGE and hurtful phlegme.

1576. GASCOIGNE, *Steele Glas*, 79. When brewers put no BAGAGE in their beer.

1579. FULKE, *Heskin's Parl.*, 240. To read such beastly BAGGAGE.

1580. NORTH, *Plutarch* (1676), 458. Hyccara, a BAGGAGE Village of the barbarous People. *Ibid.* (1580), 1003. This BAGGAGE fellow Burrus.

1583. GOLDING, *Calvin on Deut.* xcix. 613. The things . . . are BAGGAGELY trifles. *Ibid.* (1587), *De Mornay*, xviii. Dust, Coales, Ashes and such other BAGGAGE.

1592. WYRLEV, *Armorie*, 147. His BAGGAGE mind to craft was whole disposed.

1603. CROSSE, *Vertues Commonw.* (1878), 117. The very scum, rascallitie, and BAGGAGE of the people.

1610. BARROUGH, *Physick*, v. vi. The abscession being already come to suppuration . . . if the matter or any other BAGGAGE therein contained, be not discussed, etc.

1640. DVKE, *Worthy Commun.*, 203. Thistles, nettles, and such like BAGGAGE trash.

1692. HACKET, *Life of Williams*, ii. 128. For four cellars of wine, syder, ale, beer, with wood, hay, corn, and the like, stored up for a year or two, he gave not account of sixpence, but spent it upon BAGGAGE, and loose franions. *Ibid.*, p. 123. Booth himself confess, in the hearing of those witnesses, that Pregon had nothing to do with that BAGGAGE woman.

1757. SMOLLETT, *Reprisal* (1777), 1. viii. 160. I never burden my brain with unnecessary BAGGAGE.

3. (old). — A good-for-nothing: man or woman: spec. = strumpet (B. E. : *cf.* Fr. *bagasse*, Sp. *bagasa*, Port. *bagasa*, It. *bagascia* = harlot). Also (4) a familiar address to a woman, esp. a young woman: usually qualified by *cunning, saucy, pretty, little, sly*, etc. (GROSE): *cf.* PUSS, ROGUE, WENCH, DRAB, etc. As *adj.* = worthless (*see* sense 2), vile; BAGGAGERY = the rabble, the scum of society. HEAVY BAGGAGE = (GROSE and BEE) women and children.

1582. STANHURST, *Æneis* [ARBER], 101. Whilst the sun is shyning the BAGAGE close lodgeth in house-roofs.

d. 1586. SIDNEY [Century]. A spark of indignation did rise in her not to suffer such a BAGGAGE to win away anything of hers.

1589. NASHE, *Martin's Month's Mind*, 26. Men of the best sorte (an vnfit match for these of the basest BAGAGERIE).

1593. HARVEY, *Pierres Super.* [GROSART, *Works*, II. 273]. Bibbing Nash, BAGGAGE Nash, swaddish Nash, roghish Nash, the bellweather of the scribbling flocke.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Taming Shrew*, Induct. 1. 3. Y're a BAGGAGE, the Slies are no Rogues. *Ibid.* (1593), *Comedy of Errors*, iii. 1. Thou BAGGAGE; let me in. *Ibid.* (1595), *Romeo and Juliet*, iii. 5. Out, you green-sickness carrion! out you BAGGAGE . . . Hang thee young BAGGAGE! disobedient wretch. *Ibid.* (1596), *Merry Wives of Windsor*, iv. 2. Out of my door, you witch, you gag, you BAGGAGE . . . ! out, out. *Ibid.* (1600), *Pericles*, iv. 2. The poor Transylvanian is dead that lay with the little BAGGAGE. *Ibid.*, iv. 6. We should have both lord and lown if the peevish BAGGAGE would but give way to customers.

1594. LYLV, *Mother Bombie*, v. 3. The BAGGAGE begins to blush.

1594. CAREW, *Huarte's Exam.* *Wits* (1616), 209. They might soundly sleepe on his eyes, although by Nature he were a BAGGAGE.

1599. CHAPMAN, *Humourous Day's Mirth* [SHEPHEARD, 34. 2]. Enter the Maid . . . Must you control us, you proud BAGGAGE, you?

1601. HOLLAND, *Pliny*, I. III. Catamites and shame-full BAGGAGES that king Alexander the Great left there.

1601. R. JOHNSON, *Kingdom and Commonwealth*, 81. Every common soldier carrying with him his she-BAGGAGE.

1605. JONSON, *Eastward Ho*, iii. 2. Now, out upon thee, BAGGAGE!

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Bagasse*, a BAGGAGE, quean, jyll, punke, flirt.

1613. WEBSTER, *Devil's Law-Case*, iv. 2. *Contil.* Where is our solicitor With the waiting woman? *Ari.* Room for the bag and BAGGAGE.

1625. SHIRLEY, *Love Tricks*, i. 1. You are a BAGGAGE and not worthy of a man. *Ibid.* (1626), *Maid's Rev.*, iv. 2. That BAGGAGE Ambitious girl, Berintha!

1636. DAVENANT, *Wits*, iii. 3. *Eld. Pal.* A concealed retirement, which her wisdom safely chose To hide her loose love. *T'kwach*. Give me a BAGGAGE that has brains! *Ibid.* (Revised at Revival, 1673), ii. 1. The BAGGAGES About you are able to earn their own living . . . Too easily; the more's the shame.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 69. Nan in her answer was not long, For nimble BAGGAGE of her Tongue She was.

1687. CONGREVE, *Old Bachelor*, I. 3. I believe the BAGGAGE loves me. *Ibid.* (1694), *Double Dealer*, iv. 3. You fib, you BAGGAGE, you do understand. *Ibid.* (1695), *Love for Love*, v. 2. Odd, you're cunning, a wary BAGGAGE!

1693. ROBERTSON, *Phraseol. Gen.*, 107. A BAGGAGE, or Souldier's Punk, *Scutum Castrense*.

d. 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 257. A silly raw BAGGAGE that is . . . far from knowing how to perform her Part in the Chorus of Love.

c. 1709. WARD, *Terrafilius*, ii. 20. Being a Docible Young BAGGAGE, she had pick'd up as much fashionable gentility . . . as if she had been Bred at a Boarding-School.

1712. STEELE, *Spectator*, 450. 5. That Wife dying, I took another, but both proved to be idle BAGGAGES.

1732. FIELDING, *Miser*, i. 9. Here's a BAGGAGE of a daughter, who refuses the most advantageous match that ever was offered.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (1812), VII. vii. Ah, BAGGAGE, how many cavaliers wilt thou charm, if thou turnest actress! *Ibid.* (1751), *Peregrine Pickle*, xxvii. Adsooks! you BAGGAGE . . . you shouldn't want a smock nor a petticoat neither, if you could have a kindness for a true-hearted sailor.

1766. GOLDSMITH, *Vicar Wakefield*, xxviii. Tell them they are two arrant little BAGGAGES.

1796. HOLMAN, *Abroad and at Home*, ii. 5. Don't hurry me, you young BAGGAGE . . . who are you with that pretty face?

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 37. Mark my spirit, I carried off the little BAGGAGE.

1802. IRVING, *Bracebridge Hall*, iii. 24. She has an orphan niece, a pretty, soft-hearted BAGGAGE.

1850. STOWE, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, xii. He only swore the gal was a BAGGAGE, and that he was devilish unlucky.

1851. THACKERAY, *Eng. Hum.*, ii. She was a disreputable, daring, laughing, painted French BAGGAGE, that comic muse.

1863. SMITH, *Dreamthorpe*, 12. And Beauty, who is something of a coquette . . . goes off in a huff. Let the BAGGAGE go!

**BAGGY**, *adj.* (colloquial).—Inflated; HIGH-FALUTIN' (*q.v.*).

1866. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 15 Dec. The professor's diction was verbose, and—if we may use a homely figure—BAGGY.

See BAG, *subs.* 3.

**BAGLE**, *subs.* (provincial).—A whore: see TART (*HALLIWELL*).

**BAGMAN**, *subs.* (sporting).—1. A bag-fox; a fox caught and preserved alive to be hunted another day, when it is brought in a bag and turned out before the hounds.

1875. 'STONEHENGE,' *Brit. Sports*, I. II. IV. 5. If . . . wild cubs cannot be found, a BAGMAN or two must be obtained.

2. (trading).—A commercial traveller; an AMBASSADOR OF COMMERCE (*q.v.*): formerly the usual epithet, but now in depreciation.

1765. GOLDSMITH, *Essays*, I. The BAGMAN was telling a better story.

1808. WOLCOT, *Peep round Academy* [*Works* (1812), v. 360]. The BAG-MEN as they travel by.

1815. PEACOCK, *Head. Hall*, 2. In later days when commercial BAGSMEN began to scour the country.

1840. THACKERAY, *Paris Sketch Book*, 20. After a forty hours' coach-journey, BAGMAN appears as gay and spruce as when he started.

1865. *D. Telegraph*, 13 Dec., 5. 4. A traveller—I mean a BAGSMAN, not a tourist—arriving with his samples at a provincial town.

1867. COLLINS, *Public Schools*, 363. Here a certain set of boys . . . used to sit (*c.* 1793) and 'chaff' the passing BAGSMEN for the commercial travellers to Rugby then rode with actual saddlebags.

**BAGNIO**, *subs.* (old).—A brothel; a STEW (*q.v.*). [Orig. a bathing-house]. Also BAINES.

1541. ELYOT, *Image Gov.* (1549), 6. In common BAINES and bordell houses.

1599. HALL, *Satires*, vi. i. 27. As pure as olde Labulla from the BAYNES.

1624. MASSINGER, *Parliament of Love*, II. 2. To be sold to a brothel or a common BAGNIO.

1747. HOADLEY, *Susp. Husband*, ii. 4 (1756), 27. Carry her to BAGNIO, and there you may lodge with her.

1851. THACKERAY, *English Humour*, v. (1858), 243. How the prodigal drinks and sports at the BAGNIO.

1861. WRIGHT, *Domestic Manners in England during the Middle Ages*, 491. They were soon used to such an extent for illicit intrigues, that the name of a hothouse or BAGNIO became equivalent to that of a brothel.

**BAG-OF-BONES**, *subs.* *phr.* (common).—An emaciated person or animal; a WALKING SKELETON (*q.v.*); SHAPES (*q.v.*). Also (old) BEDFULL OF BONES and BAG-FUL OF SKIN AND BONES: Fr. *sacdos* (*i.e.* *sac à dos*).

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, III. III. i. i. I have an old grim sire to my husband . . . a BEDFULL OF BONES.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], s.v.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, iv. 64. There, get down stairs, little BAG O' BONES.

1848. KINGSLEY, *Saints' Tragedy*, iv. iii. 204. I am almost ashamed to punish a BAG OF SKIN AND BONES.

1902. LE QUEUX, *Temptress*, ii. Drive on, cabby, as fast as you can make that BAG OF BONES travel.

**BAG OF NAILS**, *subs. phr.* (American thieves'). — Confusion; topsy-turvydom. [Qy. from 'baccchanals.'] Also, He squints like a BAG OF NAILS, *i.e.* his eyes are directed as many ways as the points of a bag of nails (GROSE).

**BAG O' MOONSHINE**, *subs. phr.* (common). — Nonsense: see MOONSHINE.

**BAG OF MYSTERY**, *subs. phr.* (common). — A sausage or saveloy: a CHAMBER OF HORRORS (*q.v.*).

1809. WHITEING, *John St.*, xi. The words 'doorstep and sea-rover' . . . 'BAG o' MYSTERY.'

**BAG-OF-TRICKS**, *subs. phr.* (common). — I. Usually THE WHOLE BAG-OF-TRICKS = every shift or expedient. [See fable of 'The Fox and the Cat.'] Hence THE BOTTOM OF THE BAG OF TRICKS (or THE BAG) = a last resource; 'a card up one's sleeve.'

1659. REYNOLDS [BURTON, *Diary* (1828), iv. 447]. If this be done which is IN THE BOTTOM OF THE BAG, and must be done, we shall . . . be able to buoy up our reputation.

2. (venery). — The *penis* and *testes*.

**BAGPIPE**, *subs. (old)*. — A chatterbox; a WIND-BAG (*q.v.*): *cf.* 'He's like a BAGPIPE, he never talks till his belly's full.' As *adj.* = empty-headed, GUTLESS (*q.v.*); and as *verb* = TO GAS (*q.v.*).

1603. CROSSE, *Vertues Commonwe.* (1878), 103. The Seruignman, the Image of sloath, the BAGGE-PIPE of vanitie, like a windie Instrument, soundeth nothing but prophaneesse.

1612. CHAPMAN, *Widow's Tears*, i. 2. Whoreson BAGPIPE lords!

1884. *Christian World*, 19 June, 463. 4. Two fresh sermons a week . . . from the one poor droning theological BAG-PIPE.

1850. CARLYLE, *Latterday Pamph.*, v. 160. Such parliamentary BAGPIPES I myself have heard play tunes.

**BAG-PUDDING**, *subs. phr. (old)*. — A clown: *cf.* JACK-PUDDING.

See BAG, *subs. 1.*

**BAG-WIG**, *subs. phr. (old)*. — An eighteenth century wig: the back hair was enclosed in an ornamental bag: hence BAG-WIGGED = wearing a BAG-WIG.

1760. FOOTE, *Minor* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 179]. There are the new substantives], BAG WIG. . . .

1766. ANSTEV, *Bath Guide*, x. 60. BAG-WIG, and lac'd Ruffles, and black Solitaire.

1775. SHERIDAN, *St. Patrick's Day*, ii. 4. (1883), 236. Pig-tailed lawyers and BAG-WIGGED attorneys.

1850. IRVING, *Goldsmith*, xxv. 252. Walking the Strand in grand array with BAG-WIG and sword.

1866. HOWELLS, *Venetian Life*, xxi. Expect at every turn to come upon intriguing spectres in BAG-WIGS, immense hoops and patches.

**BA-HA**, *subs. phr. (tailors')*. — Bronchitis.

**BAH**, *intj. and verb. (colloquial)*. — An exclamation of contempt or disgust: Fr. *bah*!

[1600. DEKKER, *Gentle Craft* [Works, i. 40]. Away she flung . . . nor said bish nor BAH.]

1817. BYRON, *Beppo*, xxxii. Dreading the deep damnation of his 'BAH.'

1838. DICKENS, *Old Curiosity Shop* (C.D. ed.), 33. Mr Richard . . . spends all his money on his friends and is BAH!D for his pains.

1848. KINGSLEY, *Saints' Tragedy*, iii. 3. BAH! priest! What can this Marpurg-madness do for me?

d. 1859. DE QUINCEY, *Works (Century)*. Twenty-five years ago the vile ejaculation BAH! was utterly unknown to the British public.

**BAIL.** STRAW-BAIL (or STRAW-SHOES), *subs. phr.* (old).—I. Professional bail: see STRAW. Also (2) insufficient bail (modern).

TO GIVE (or TAKE) LEG-BAIL, *verb. phr.* (common).—To escape; to be indebted to one's legs for safety: see BUNK. Also TO TAKE LEG-BAIL AND GIVE LAND-SECURITY.

1775. ADAIR, *American Indians*, 277. I had concluded to use no chivalry, but GIVE THEM LEG-BAIL instead of it, by . . . making for a deep swamp.

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering*, iii. 'I e'en GAE THEM LEG-BAIL, for there's nae ease in dealing wi' quarrelsome fowk.'

1841. MARRYAT, *Poacher*, xxii. GIVEN THEM LEG-BAIL, I swear.

**BAIL UP (or BALE UP)**, *verb. Australian*.—See quotes. 1898 and 1888.

1844. MEREDITH, *Notes and Sketches of New South Wales*, 132. The bush-rangers . . . walk quickly in, and 'BAIL UP', i.e. bind with cords, or otherwise secure, the male portion.

1847. MARJORIBANKS, *Travels in New South Wales*, 72. There were eight or ten bullock-teams BALED UP by three mounted bushrangers. Being BALED UP is colonial for those who are attacked, who are afterwards all put together, and guarded by one of the party of the bush-rangers when the others are plundering.

1855. HOWITT, *Two Years in Victoria*, ii. 309. 'So long as that is wrong, the whole community will be wrong,—in colonial phrase, 'BAILED UP' at the mercy of its own tenants.'

1862. LLOYD, *Thirty-three Years, etc.*, 192. 'Come, sir, immediately, . . . BAIL UP in that corner, and prepare to meet the death you have so long deserved.'

1879. BARRY, *Up and Down*, 112. She BAILED ME UP and asked me if I was going to keep my promise and marry her.

1880. SENIOR, *Travel and Trout*, 36. His troutship, having neglected to secure a line of retreat, was, in colonial parlance, 'BAILED UP.'

1880. WALCH, *Victoria in 1880*, 133. The Kelly gang . . . BAILED UP some forty residents in the local public house.

1880. *Blackwood's Mag.*, July, 9r. 'BAIL UP! BAIL UP!' shout the two red-veiled attackers, revolvers in hand.'

1885. FINCH - HATTON, *Advance Australia*, 105. A little further on the boar 'BAILED UP' on the top of a ridge.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery under Arms*, 368. A rum go . . . same talk for cows and Christians. That's how things get stuck into the talk in a new country. Some old hand like father, . . . assigned to a dairy settler . . . had taken to the bush and tried his hand at sticking up people. When . . . he wanted 'em to stop, 'Bail up, d—yer,' would come a deal quicker and more natural-like to his tongue than 'Stand.' So 'BAIL UP' it was from that day to this.

1890. NISBET, *Bail Up!* [Title].

1896. LILLARD, *Poker Stories*, 210. An 'agent' entered the car with an order to 'BAIL UP.'

1898. MORRIS, *Austral-English*, s.v. BAIL UP! (1) To secure the head of a cow in a bail for milking. (2) By transference, to stop travellers in the bush, used of bushrangers. It means generally to stop. Like *stick up* (q.v.), it is often used humorously of a demand for subscriptions, etc.

**BAIN.** See BAGNIO.

**BAIRN'S-BED**, *subs. phr.* (Scots).—The womb.

1549. *Compl. Scot.*, 67. And womans BAYRNIS BED.

1863. *Provinc. Glos.*, 'Danby, s.v. She's got a swelling on the BAIRN-BED.'

**BAIT**, *subs.* (common).—I. Anger ; a **WAX** (*q.v.*).

1882. *Anstey, Vice-Versa*, v. I went calmly on . . . as if nothing was the matter. That put the Proctor in a **BAIT**.

2. (old legal).—A fee ; a refresher (*q.v.*).

1603. *FLORIO, Montaigne*, II. xii. Have you paid him [a Lawyer] well, have you given him a good **BAIT** or fee ?

**WELSH** (or **SCOTCH**) **BAIT**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A rest, given to a horse, at the top of a hill ; a **BREATHER** (*q.v.*).

1662. *FULLER, Worthies*, iv. 7.

**BAITING-STOCK**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A laughing-stock.

1630. *TAYLOR, Works*, [NARES]. I a common reprehension, a scorne, a bye-word, and **BAITING-STOCKE** to the poysounous teeth of envy and slander.

**BAITLAND**, *subs.* (nautical).—See *quot.*

1725. *DE FOE, Voy. Round World* (1840), 122. A **BAIT-LAND**, or post of refreshment.

1867. *SMYTH, Sailors' Word Book*, s.v. **BAITLAND**. An old word, formerly used to signify a port where refreshments could be procured.

**BAKE**, *verb*. (Winchester College).—To rest ; to sit (or lie) at ease. Hence **BAKER**=(1) a cushion ; and (2) anything to sit (or kneel) upon, as a blotting-book, etc. [BAKERS were of two kinds ; that used in 'College' was large, oblong and green : whilst the 'Commoners' BAKER was thin, narrow, much smaller, and red.] Whence **BAKER-LAYER** (obs.)=a Junior who carried a Prefect's green BAKER in and out of Hall at meal-times. Also **BAKESTER** (obs.)=a sluggard ; **BAKING-LEAVE** (obs.)=(1) permission TO

**BAKE** (spec. on a kind of sofa) in a study in 'Commoners' or in a SCOB-PLACE (*q.v.*) in College, and (2) leave to sit in another's TOYS (*q.v.*) ; **BAKING-PLACE**=any place in which TO **BAKE**, or in connection with which **BAKING** LEAVE was given. [North. dial. : *beek* (or *beak*)=to expose oneself to the genial warmth of sun. fire, etc., to bask. *JAMIESON* : *beik beke, beek=*to bask].

c. 1330. *Wohunge* [Cott. Hom., 269]. Al þat þinende pik ne walde ham þunche bote a softe **BEKKINDE** bæf.

1375. *BARBOUR, Bruce*, xix. 552. Ane ynglysh man, that lay **BEKAND** Hym by a fyre.

c. 1400. *Bone Flor.*, 99. A gode fyre . . . To **BEVKE** hys boones by.

c. 1400. *Ywaine and Gaw.*, 145. 9. That Knyght es nothing to set by That . . . legged **BEKAND** in his bed.

ii. 1553. *BRENDE, Quintius Curtius*, II. Diogenes . . . was **BEKING** of hymself in y<sup>e</sup> sunne.

c. 1568. *Wife Auchtermuchty* [LAING, ii. 52], 12. And saw the wyf baith dry and cleane, And sittand at ane fyre, **BEKAND** bawlid.

1577. *KENDALL* [WRENCH]. At home we take our **ease** AND **BEAKE** ourselves in rest.

1648. *SYMMONS, Vindication Chas.* I. [WRENCH]. **BEAKING** himself in the midst of his luxuries.

c. 1652. *BROME, Queene's Exch.*, ii. 2. Our Masters grudge to give us wood Enough to make a **BEAKING** Bonfire.

1730. *RAMSAY, Gentle Shepherd* [Works], II. 93. She and her cat sit **BEEKING** in her yard.

**PHRASES.** TO **BAKE** ONE'S **BREAD**=to **PUNISH** (*q.v.*), to **DO FOR** (*q.v.*) ; 'As they brew, so let them **BAKE**' (prov. saying)= 'Let them go on as they have begun ; 'I must go and **BAKE** some bread' (a jocular excuse for departure).

1380. *Sir Ferumbas*, 577. For  
entere MY BREED HAD BE BAKE; myn lyf  
dawes had be tynt.

1590. PORTER, *Two Angry Women*  
(1841), 82. Euen AS THEY BREW, SO LET  
THEM BAKE.

1675. COTTON, *Scoffer Scoff*, 150.  
I should do very imprudently . . . Either  
to meddle or to make: But AS THEY BREW,  
SO LET 'UM BAKE.

**BAKED**, *ppl. adj.* (common).—  
Collapsed; exhausted; done up;  
e.g. 'toward the end of the  
course the crew were regularly  
BAKED.'

HALF- (or DOUGH-) BAKED,  
*adj. phr.* (colloquial).—I. In-  
conclusive; imperfect. Also (2)  
dull-witted, SOFT (*q.v.*): see  
HALF-BAKED, adding quot. 1864  
and 1866.

1592. LILLY, *Midas*, ii. 2. A reason  
dow-BAKED.

1864. *Notes and Queries*, 3 S., vi.  
404. 2. He is only HALF-BAKED—put in  
with the bread, and taken out with the  
cakes.

d. 1866. FAIRHOLT [*Lilly, Works*, ii.  
264. Note]. The peasantry in the mid-  
lands say of an idiotic person, 'he is only  
HALF-BAKED.'

**BAKER**, *subs.* (old).—I. Bakers,  
against whom severe penalties  
for impurity of bread or shortness  
of weight were enacted from very  
early times, have been the subject  
of much colloquial sarcasm: see  
quot.

1562. HEWVON, *Proverbs* (1867), 47.  
I feare we parte not yet, Quoth the BAKER  
to the pylorie.

1598. STOW, *Survey* (1623), 208. A  
pillorie for the punishment of BAKERS,  
offending in the assize of bread.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Hamlet*, iv. 5.  
42. They say the owl was a BAKER'S  
DAUGHTER.

1604. DEKKER, *Honest Whore*  
[*Works* (1873), ii. 122]. Are not BAKERS'  
ARMES the skales of Justice? yet is not  
their bread light.

1660. HOWELL, *Proverbs*, ii. Ile  
take no leave of you, quoth the BAKER to  
the Pillory.

1675. RAY, *Proverbs*, 'Miscellane-  
ous.' Three dear years will raise a  
BAKER'S DAUGHTER to a portion. 'Tis  
not the smallness of the bread, but the  
knavery of the BAKER. *Ibid.*, 'Relating  
to . . . Trades.' Take all, and pay the  
BAKER.

1857. *Notes and Queries*, 21 Mar.  
Pull Devil, Pull BAKER, in England's the  
cry.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under  
Arms*, xxxvii. It's all fair pulling, 'PULL  
DEVIL, PULL BAKER'; someone has to  
get the worst of it. Now it's us [bush-  
rangers], now it's them [the police] that  
gets . . . rubbed out.

2. (American).—A loafer. [The  
word is generally attributed to  
Baron de Mandat Grancey, who,  
in *Cowboys and Colonels*, innoc-  
ently translated the word  
'loafer' as BAKER.]

TO SPELL BAKER (colloquial).—  
—To attempt a difficult task.  
[In old spelling books 'baker'  
was often the first word of two  
syllables to which a child came  
when learning to spell.]

1860. LONGFELLOW, *New England  
Tragedies*. If an old man will marry a  
young wife, why then—why then—why  
then—he must SPELL BAKER.

**BAKER - KNEED**, (or **BAKER-  
LEGGED**), *adj. phr.* (common).—  
I. Knock-kneed; bow-legged:  
hence (2) effeminate (GROSE).

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, ii.  
2. Will women's tongues, like BAKERS'  
LEGS, never go straight?

1611. COTgrave, *Dict.*, s.v. *farretier*  
. . . BAKER-LEGG, that goes in at the  
knees.

1652. GAULE, *Hagstrom*, 186.  
BAKER-KNEED signifies effeminate.

1656. DU GARD, *Gate Lat. Ual.*,  
292. He that is BAKER-LEGGED rubs his  
knees against one another.

1656. *Artif. Handsom.* (1662), 79. The unhandsome warpings of bow Leggs and BAKER FEET.

1659. *Lady Alimony* (DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), xiv. 361). His puny BAKER-LEGS.

1675. RAV, *Proverbs*, 'Relating . . . to trades.' He should be a BAKER by his bow-LEGS.

1692. L'ESTRANGE, *Life of Aesop*. Aesop . . . was . . . flat-nosed, hunch-back'd, blabber-lipp'd, . . . big-belly'd, BAKER-LEGG'D.

1754. MARTIN, *Eng. Dict.* (a ed.). BAKER-LEGG'D, straddling, with the legs bowing outward.

1784. BARRY, *Lect. Art.*, II. (1848), 94. Knocked or BAKER KNEES.

1812. COLMAN, *Poetical Vagaries*, 13. His voice had broken to a gruffish squeak. He had grown blear-eyed, BAKER-KNEED, and gummy.

1871. *Figure Training*, 39. BAKER'S KNEE, as it is called, or an inclining inwards of the right knee-joint until it closely resembles the right side of a letter K, is the almost certain penalty of habitually bearing any burden of bulk in the right hand.

**BAKER'S DOZEN (or BARGAIN), subs. phr. (old).** —I. Thirteen counted as twelve: sometimes fourteen (GROSE and BEE). Hence (2)=good measure: e.g. TO GIVE A MAN A BAKER'S DOZEN=to trounce him well. Also BROWN-DOZEN (*q.v.*); DEVIL'S-DOZEN (*cf.* BAKER I, and Fr. *boulanger*=devil); and ROUND-DOZEN (*see* ROUND). [Bakers were (and are) liable to heavy penalties for deficiency in the weights of loaves: these were fixed for every price from eighteenpence down to two-pence, but penny loaves or rolls were not specified in the statute. Bakers, therefore, to be on the safe side, gave, for a dozen of bread, an additional loaf, known as 'inbread.' A similar custom was formerly observed with regard to coal, and publishers nowadays reckon thirteen copies of a book as twelve.]

1596. NASHE, *Saffron Walden Works*, III. ii.). Conioyning with his aforesaid Doctor Brother in eightie eight brawne BAKER'S DOZEN of Almanackes.

1598. FLORIO, *Wordie of Wordes*, a.v. *Seryna*, a dozen, namely of eggs, or as we say, a BAKER'S DOZEN, that is thirteen to the dozen.

1599. COOKE, *Tu Quoque* (DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), VII. 49. Mine's a BAKER'S DOZEN: Master Bubble, tell your money.

1610. HUDSON [naming a group of thirteen or fourteen islands on the east shore of Hudson's Bay], *LA DOUZAINE DU BOULANGER*.

1623. FLETCHER, *Poems*, 131. This strings the BAKER'S DOZEN, christens all The cross-leg'd hours of time since Adam's fall.

1651. CLEAVELAND, *Poems* (NARES). Pair-royall headed Cerberus his cozen; Hercules labours were a BAKER'S DOZEN.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, V. xxii. We saw a knot of others, about a BAKER'S DOZEN in number, tippling under an arbour.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 67. The King . . . is the only Almanack-maker for his Money, who honestly stretches them out to a BAKER'S DOZEN.

1733. FIELDING, *Don Quixote*, III. vi. I dare swear there were a good round BAKER'S DOZEN, at least.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 444. The moment that this loving cousin Awak'd he saw a BAKER'S DOZEN Of Thracians kill'd.

1822. NARES, *Glossary*, s.v. BAKER'S DOZEN . . . originally devil's dozen . . . of the number of witches at table together in their sabbaths. Hence thirteen at table. The baker . . . a very unpopular character in former times, seems to have been substituted for the devil. [*Abridged.*]

1825. SCOTT, *St. Ronan's Well*, xxviii. 'As to your lawyer, you get just your guinea's worth from him—not even so much as the BAKER'S BARGAIN, thirteen to the dozen.'

1850. RILEY, *Siberibus*, Pref. 68. These dealers . . . [Hucksters] on purchasing their bread from the bakers, were privileged by law to receive thirteen batches for twelve, and this would seem to have been the extent of their profits. Hence the expression, still in use, 'A BAKER'S DOZEN.'

1902. *D. Mail*, 6 Mar., 4. 3. Quite a BAKER'S DOZEN of would-be testifiers . . . to the marvellous story of their 'cures.'

**BAKER'S LIGHT BOBS** (military).—  
The 10th Hussars.

**BAKES**, *subs.* (American thieves').—  
A schoolboy.

2. (American).—An original stake: chiefly schoolboys': *e.g.* 'When I get my BAKES back I shall stop playing.' [BARTLETT: in reference possibly to a baker not always getting his BAKE safely out of the oven.]

**BAKESTER, BAKING-LEAVE, BAKING-PLACE, etc.** *See BAKE.*

**BALAAM**, *subs.* (printers').—Miscellaneous paragraphs for filling up a column of type: PADDING (*q.v.*): applied either to MS. copy or stereo. Hence **BALAAM-BOX** (or -BASKET)=(1) a receptacle for such matter; and (2) a waste-paper basket. [WEBSTER: 'a cant term': popularised by *Blackwood*, in which *Noctes Ambrosianæ* appeared. *See* Numbers xxii. 30.]

1822-36. WILSON, *Noctes Ambrosiana*, II. xxvi. Bring in BALAAM, and place him on the table.

1826. SCOTT, *Mal. Malagr.*, iii. 3. How much BALAAM (speaking technically) I have edged out of your valuable paper.

1827. *Blackw. Mag.*, xxi. 340. Several dozen letters on the same subject now in our BALAAM-BOX.

1839. LOCHART, *Scott*, lxx. (1842), 622. BALAAM is the cant name for asinine paragraphs about monstrous productions of nature and the like, kept standing in type to be used whenever the real news of the day leaves an awkward space that must be filled up somehow.

1861. A.K.H.B., *Recr. Country Parson*, 2. 59 S. Rubbishing articles which are at present consigned to the BALAAM-BOX.

1873. HALL, *Modern English*, 17. An essay for the *Edinburgh Review*, in 'the old unpolluted English language,' would have been consigned by the editor to his BALAAM-BASKET.

1877. *Notes and Queries*, 5 S. vii. 270. 2. At the risk of getting into your BALAAM-BOX, I venture to record the whole contents of my bundle.

**BALACLAVA-DAY**, *subs.* (military).—A soldier's pay day. [Balaclava in 1854-6 was a base of supply for English troops: as pay was drawn, the men went down to make their purchases.]

**BALANCE**, *subs.* (commercial: orig. American, now general).—The remainder; the rest: *cf.* 'lave' (Scots) and 'shank' (as 'in the shank of the evening').

1846. *Albany Jo.*, 7 Jan. The yawl returned to the wreck, took ten or eleven persons and landed them, and then went and got the BALANCE from the floating cabin.

1861. *Boston Transcript*, 27 Dec. We listened to Wendell Phillips, [but] having an engagement elsewhere, we were forced to leave, and so lost the BALANCE of his oration.

1864. WEBSTER, *Dict.*, s.v. [The first dictionary to record the usage.]

1875. *Blackwood's Mag.*, April, 443. BALANCE, long familiar to American ears, is becoming so to ours. In an account of a ship on fire we read, 'Those saved remained the BALANCE of the night watching the burning wreck.'

1883. FITZGERALD, *Recr. Liter. Man*, 170. Everyone is away shooting or riding; a BALANCE of the ladies is left.

**BALBUS**, *subs.* (University).—A Latin prose composition. [From the frequency with which Balbus is mentioned in Arnold's *Latin Prose Composition*.]

1870. *Quarterly Review*. BALBUS was in constant use.

**BALDCOOT**, *subs. (old)*.—I. A term of contempt: *cf.* BALDHEAD. [The frontal plate of the coot is destitute of feathers.] Hence BALD AS A COOT = as bald as may be [TYNDALE, *Works* (1530), ii. 224, s.v.].

[1616. BRAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Kn. of Malta*, i. 1. Unfledge them of their . . . perrwigs, And they appear like BALD-COOTES in the nest.]

1823. BYRON, *Man*, XIV. lxxxiii. The BALD-COOT bully, Alexander.

1848. KINGSLEY, *Saints' Tragedy*, III. iv. 176. Your princesses, that . . . demean themselves to hob and nob with these black BALDICOOTS [*i.e.* monks with shaven crowns]!

2. (old).—See quot.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. PIGEON. A . . . [young man] who parts with his blunt freely at gambling, and is rooked; older persons also stay and get plucked sometimes, until they have not a feather to fly with. Such men, after the plucking, become BALD-COOTS.

**BALDERDASH**, *subs. (old and still colloquial)*.—(1) Froth or frothy liquid; (2) a jumble of liquors (B. E. and GROSE): *e.g.* brandy (or milk) and beer, milk and rum, etc.: also as *verb* = to 'dash' with another liquid, and hence to adulterate (GROSE); (3) a jumble of words, nonsense, trash; and (4) 'lewd conversation' (GROSE), obscenity, scurrility. [O.E.D.: From the evidence at present the inference is that the current sense was transferred . . . with the notion of 'frothy talk', *Century*: Of obscure origin, apparently dial. or slang.]

1598. NASHE, *Saffron Walden*. To Reader. Two blunderkins, hausing their brains stuft with nougat but BALDERDASH. *Ibid.* (1599), *Lenten Stuff*, 8. They would no more . . . have their heads washed with his bubbly spume or barbers' BALDERDASH.

1611. CHAPMAN, *Mayday*, iii. 4. S'fut winesucker, what have you fid us heere? BALDERDASH?

1629. JONSON, *New Inn*, i. 2. Beer, or butter-milk, mingled to-gether . . . To drink such BALDERDASH!

1637. TAYLOR, *Drink and Welc.* [WORCESTER]. Beer, by a mixture of wine hath lost both name and nature, and is called BALDERDASH.

1641. HEWWOOD, *Reader, Here you'll*, etc., 6. Where sope hath fay'd without, BALDERDASH wines within will work no doubt.

1674. MARVELL, *Reh. Transp.*, ii. 243. Did ever Divine rattle out such prophanie BALDERDASH!

1674. DURFEE, *Pills*, iii. 304. When Thames was BALDERDASHED with Tweed.

1694. MOTTRUX, *Rabelais*, v. xlvi. Will he . . . go shite out his nasty rhyming BALDERDASH in some bog-house? *Ibid.* (1702) Prologue to FARQUHAR'S *Inconstant*. Poets, like vintners, BALDERDASH and brew Your surly scenes.

1714. MILBOURNE, *Traitor's Rew.*, Pref. Was ever God's word so BALDERDASH'D?

1766. SMOLLETT, *Travel*, xix. The wine merchants of Nice brew and BALDERDASH and even mix it with pigeon's dung and quicklime. *Ibid.* (1771), *Humph. Clinker* (1890), i. 156. Wine . . . a vile, unpalatable, and pernicious sophistication, BALDERDASHED with cider, corn-spirit, and the juice of sloes.

1777. HORNE TOKE, *Trial*, 25. I heard him charge this publication with ribaldry, scurrility, billingsgate, and BALDERDASH.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [SMOLLETT], 147. Nothing but flimsy BALDERDASH in their talk. *Ibid.*, 197. I was a walking budget of BALDERDASH.

1812. EDIN. REV., xx. 419. The BALDERDASH which men must talk at popular meetings.

1821. IRVING [WARNER, *Life* (1882), 136]. A fostered growth of poetry and romance, and BALDERDASHED with false sentiment.

1849. MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.*, i. 351. I am almost ashamed to quote such nauseous BALDERDASH.

1854. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, i. 10. To defile the ears of young boys with this wicked BALDERDASH.

1865. CARLYLE, *Fred. Great*, II. vii. v. 287. No end florid inflated tautologic ornamental BALDERDASH.

1900. GRIFFITHS, *Fast and Loose*, xxix. He had heard amidst much BALDERDASH something that might be useful.

**BALD-FACE**, *subs. phr.* (American).—New whiskey ; ‘warranted to kill at forty rods.’ BALDFACED = NEAT (q.v.).

**BALD-FACED SHIRT**, *subs. (American)*.—A white shirt : cf. BOILED SHIRT.

**BALD-FACED STAG**, *subs. phr. (common)*.—A bald-headed man ; BLADDER OF LARD.

**BALDHEAD (or PATE)**, *subs. (old)*.—A term of contempt (cf. first section of quot. 1603) : also BALDY. [Of Biblical origin.] Hence BALITUDE = a state of baldness ; HIS BALDITUDE = a mock title ; and BALDHEADED-ROW = the first row of stalls at theatres, especially at LEG-SHOPS (q.v.).

1535. COVERDALE, *Bible*, 2 Kings ii. 23. Come vp here thou BALDE HEADE [WYCLIF = BALLARD].

1601. DENT, *Pathway to Heaven*, 131. Mocked . . . Elisha calling him BALD-HEAD, BALD-PATE.

1603. SHAKESPEARE, *Meas. for Meas.* v. I. Come hither, good man BALDPATE. *Ibid.* You BALDPATED, lying rascal.

1821. BYRON, *Foscari*, iii. 1. 244. Held in the bondage of ten BALD-HEADS.

1865. NOEL, *Richter's Flower Pieces* (1871), I. v. 141. But had solicited the BALD-PATES in vain.

1882. CLEMENS, *Huck. Finn*, 187. Trouble has done it ; trouble has brought these gray hairs and this premature BALDITUDE.

1900. FLYNT, *Tramp. with Tramps*, 384. The BALDY 'e comes himself 'n asted what I wanted.

**BALDHEADED**, *adj. (American)*.—Eagerly ; with might and main. [BARTLETT : as when one rushes out without his hat.]

1868. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, 6. I scent which pays the best, an' then Go into it BALDHEADED.

1869. *Our Young Folks* [DE VERE]. Whenever he had made up his mind to do a thing he went at it BALDHEADED.

1888. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 22 June. The Chicago Republicans . . . have gone BALDHEADED for protection.

**TOSNATCH BALDHEADED**, *verb. phr. (American)*.—To defeat a person in a street fight.

1871. GRANT WHITE, *Words and Their Uses*. The crowd than gave a specimen of calumny broke loose, And said I'd SNATCHED HIM BALDHEADED, and likewise cooked his goose.

**BALDHEADED - HERMIT**, *subs. phr. (venery)*.—The penis : see PRICK.

**BALDOBER (or BALDOWER)**, *subs. (thieves')*.—A leader ; a spokesman [Ger.].

**BALD-RIB**, *subs. phr. (common)*.—A lean person ; a WALKING-SKELETON (q.v.).

1621. MIDDLETON, *Mayor of Quin*, iii. 3. Thou art such a spiny BALDRIB, all the mistresses in the town will never get thee up.

**BALDUCTUM**, *subs. (old)*.—Nonsense ; rubbish : as *adj.* = affected, trashy (in quot. 1595 = an affected writer).

1577. HOLINSHED, *Chron.*, II. 29. 2. The Irish doublesse repose a great affiance in this BALDUCKTUM dreame.

1583. STANYHURST, *Aeneis*, ‘Ded.’ [ARBER, 10. Their rude rythming and BALDUCKETOME ballads.

1593. HARVEY, *Pierces Superrog.*, 139. The stalest dudgen or absurdest BALDUC-TUM that they or their mates can invent.

1595. *Polimanteia* [NARES]. Every BALDUCTUM makes divine poetrie to be but base rime.

1596. HARRINGTON, *Ulysses upon Ajax*. Besides, what BALDUCTUM play is not full of them?

1617. COLLINS, *Def. Bp. Ely*, II. viii.  
295. Will this BALDUCTUM never be left?

**BALFOUR'S MAIDEN**, *subs.* (obsolete Parliamentary). — A covered battering-ram: used by the Royal Irish Constabulary in carrying out evictions in Ireland (1888-9).

1889. SIR WM. VERNON HARcourt, *Speech* [Daily News, 1 April]. Now at Letterkenny, Mr. Balfour has introduced a new invention . . . an iron-headed spiked battering-ram to be used in carrying out the evictions. Why, really, gentlemen, . . . you find instruments called 'The Scavenger's Daughter,' and 'The Maiden,' . . . I think this last pattern of ram of Mr. Balfour's might be called 'The Unionist's Daughter'—(loud laughter)—or it might be christened 'BALFOUR'S MAIDEN.'

**BALL**, *subs.* (old).—1. The head: also **BALL IN THE HOOD**; **BILLIARD-BALL**, etc.

c. 1300. *King Alis*, 6481. Mony of his knyghtis gode Loren theo BALLES IN HEORE HODE.

c. 1325. *Cour de L.*, 4523. Men of armes the swerdes outbreyde; BALLES OUT OF HOODES, soone they pleyde.

c. 1460. *Townley Myst.*, 17. I shrew thi BALLE UNDER THI HODE.

c. 1500. *Robin Hood* (RITSON), i. 1454. He ne shall lese his hede, That is the best BALL IN HIS HODE.

2. (prison).—A ration: food or drink.

3. (vulgar).—*See BALLOCKS.*

4. (Winchester).—In *pl.* = a Junior in College: his duty is to collect footballs from lockers in school and take them through to the Ball-keeper in Commoners to be blown or repaired. The **BALL-KEEPER** is an Inferior who,

for service in looking after cricket and foot-balls, is exempted from **KICKING-IN** (*q.v.*) and **WATCHING OUT** (*q.v.*).

**PHRASES.** **TO CATCH (or TAKE) THE BALL BEFORE THE BOUND** = to anticipate; **TO HAVE THE BALL AT ONE'S FOOT (or BEFORE ONE)** = to have in one's power (or at one's finger-ends); **TO OPEN THE BALL** = to lead off, to make a start; **TO KEEP THE BALL ROLLING (or KEEP UP THE BALL)** = to prevent a matter flagging or hanging fire; **TO TAKE UP THE BALL** = to take one's turn; whence 'the **BALL'S** with you' = you're next.

1589. PUTTENHAM, *Eng. Poesy*, iii. xix. We do preuent them . . . and do CATCH THE BALL (as they are wont to say) BEFORE IT COME TO THE GROUND.

1645. HOWELL, *Letters*, iv. 9. It concerns you not to be over-hasty herein not to **TAKE THE BALL BEFORE THE BOUND**.

1661. *Papers on Alt. Prayer-Book*, 24. You **HAVE THE BALL BEFORE YOU**, and have the wind and sun, and the power of contending without controll.

1781. BENTHAM, *To G. Wilson* [Works (1843), x. 104]. I put a word in now, and then to **KEEP THE BALL UP**.

c. 1800. AUCKLAND, *Corresp.* (1862), III. 416. We **HAVE THE BALL AT OUR FEET**, and if the Government will allow us . . . the rebellion will be crushed.

1809. WELLINGTON [Gurw. *Dispatches*, v. 365]. If the Spaniards had not lost two armies lately, we should **KEEP UP THE BALL** for another year.

1812. BYRON, *Waltz*, xiii. Note. Waltz and the battle of Austerlitz are . . . said to have **OPENED THE BALL** together.

1876. *Eton Chronicle*, 20 July. He who **OPENED THE BALL** and who saw them all fall, Scarce deserved that defeat in one innings.

1878. ELIOT, *Coll. Breakfast P.*, 345. Louder Rosencrantz TOOK UP THE BALL.

1887. HAGGARD, *Allan Quatermain*, xi. Sir Henry **OPENED THE BALL** by firing at the three-parts grown young one.

CALL THE BALL, *intj. phr.* (Stonyhurst).—The 'Foul !' of Association football.

THREE BRASS (OF GOLDEN) BALLS. *See THREE BALLS.*

**BALLAD-BASKET**, *subs. phr. (old).*—A street singer: *see STREET PITCHER.* Fr. *braillard.*

**BALLAD-MONGER**, *subs. phr. (old colloquial).*—I. A ballad-maker: in contempt: hence **BALLAD-MONGERING**.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *i Hen. IV.*, iii. 1. 130. I had rather be a Kitten, and cry new, Then one of these same Meeter **BALLADMONGERS**.

1756. WHARTON, *Ess. Poës* (1782), i. vii. 356. Villon was merely a pert and insipid **BALLAD-MONGER**.

1778. SHERIDAN, *Rivals*, ii. 1. To make herself the pipe and **BALLAD-MONGER** of a circle !

1809. BRYON, *Bards and Rev.*, xii. Behold the **BALLAD-MONGER** Southey rise ! *Ibid.*, Argt. (MS.). The poet . . . revileth Walter Scott for . . . **BALLAD-MONGERING**.

**BALLAHOU**, *subs. (nautical).*—A term of derision applied to an ill-conditioned slovenly ship' (*Century*); 'a West Indian clipper schooner: apparently she may also be a brig to judge from *The Cruise of the Midge*' (CLARK RUSSELL).

**BALLAMBANGJANG**—THE STRAITS OF **BALLAMBANGJANG**, *subs. phr. (nautical).*—'Though unnoticed by geographers, are frequently mentioned in sailors' yarns as being so narrow, and the rocks on each side so crowded with trees inhabited by monkeys, that the ship's yards cannot be squared, on account of the monkeys' tails getting jammed into, and choking up, the brace blocks.'—*Hotten.*

**BALLAST**, *subs. (common).*—Money: generic: *see RHINO.* Hence **WELL-BALLASTED** = rich.

**BALL FACE**, *subs. (American negro).*—A white man [BARTLETT: applied at Salem, Mass., 1810-1820].

**BALL-KEEPER**. *See BALL, subs. 4.*

**BALL-MY-NAG**, *subs. phr. (venery).*—The *penis*: *see PRICK.* [BALL = a generic name for a horse.]

c. 1707. *Old Ballad*, 'The Trooper Watering His Nag' [FARMER, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1896), i. 192]. When Night came on to Bed they went, . . . What is this so stiff and warm, . . . 'Tis **BALL MY NAG**—he will do you harm.

**BALLOCK**, *subs. (once literary: not now in polite use).*—A testicle: also **BALLOCK-STONE**; and (short) **BALL**. Hence **BALLOCK-COD** = the *scrotum*; **BALLOCKS** ! (or **ALL BALLS** !) = a derisive retort (*cf. Cojones* = a Spanish oath). As verb (TO GO **BALLOCKING**, or DO A **BALLOCKING**) = to copulate: *see RIDE*: also (of women) TO GET A PAIR OF **BALLS** AGAINST ONE'S BUTT. Also TO GET UP TO ONE'S **BALLS** = to effect intro-mission. Whence TO **MAKE BALLS OF** = to make a mistake; go to **WRONG** (*g.v.*), TO **BUGGER** (or **BITCH**) UP (*g.v.*). **BALLOCKS-STONES** = a term of endearment (*PALSGRAVE, Acolastius*, 1540).

c. 1000. *Glossary* [Wright, *Vocab.*, 265. *Testiculi*, BEALLUCAS. *Ibid.*, 539. *Omentibrama*, BALLUC cod. *Ibid.*, 677. *Piga*, BALLOKE CODE.

[?] MS. *Bib. Reg.*, 17 A. iii. f. 149. For swellinge of **BALLOKIS** [a medical receipt].

1382. *WYCLIF, Bible, Levit.* xxii. 24. Al beeste that . . . kilt and taken away the **BALLOKES** is. [Auth. Ver.= 'that is . . . cut. ']

c. 1460. *Tounseley Myst.*, 236. I have  
brysten both my BALOK STONES, So fast  
hyed I hedy.

1485. *Bk. St. Albans*, 'Hawking,'  
C. viii. Geue hir the BALOCKES of a  
Buc.

1579. BAKER, *Guydon's Quest.*  
*Cytwrg*, 33, s.v.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. xiii.  
Who his foul tail with paper wipes, Shall  
at his BALLOCKS leave some chips. *Ibid.*,  
ii. i. True BALLOCKEERING blades.

1721-1800. BAILEY, *Dict.*, s.v.

d. 1796. [BURNS, *Merry Muses* (c.  
1800), 15]. 'For a' that and a' that.' His  
hairy BALLS . . . hang like a beggar's  
wallet. *Ibid.* 'As I looked o'er yon castle  
wa' [quoted by Burns in a letter to George  
Thomson]. He plac'd his Jacob whare  
she did piss, An' his BALLS where the wind  
did blow.

**BALL OF FIRE**, *subs. phr.* (popular).  
—A glass of cheap brandy  
(GROSE.)

**BALL OF HONOUR.** *See BEGGAR'S  
ACE.*

**BALL OF WAX**, *subs.*, (common).  
—A snob, or shoe-maker.

**BALLOOH**, *verb.* (American).—To  
brag; TO GAS (*q.v.*). Also  
colloquial: *e.g.* BALLOONACY (*cf.* lunacy)=a mania for ballooning;  
BALLOONATIC (*cf.* lunatic)  
= balloon-mad; BALLOONING,  
*subs.* (Stock Exchange)=inflating  
prices by fictitious means, and as  
*adj.*=high FALUTIN' (*q.v.*).

d. 1861. JEFFRESON, *Correspond.*, 1.  
323. BALLOONING indeed goes on.

1864. *D. Telegr.*, 19 Feb. We live in  
an age of BALLOONACY. *Ibid.* (1865), 22  
Nov., 5, 3. That Nadar, the BALLOON-  
ATIC, has sold his balloon.

1878. SINCLAIR, *Mount*, 33. Gas-  
brained, BALLOONING wandering men.

1882. *Western Daily Press*, 27 Mar.,  
3, 1. A sharp epidemic of BALLOONACY.

1882. *Moonshee*, v. 163. Another  
BALLOONATIC attempt to cross the Channel.

**BALLOT-BOX STUFFING**, *subs. phr.*  
(American).—Tampering with  
election returns: 'a box is con-  
structed with false bottom and  
compartments so as to permit  
spurious ballots to be introduced  
by the teller in charge. The  
most outrageous frauds have been  
committed by this means'  
[BARTLETT].

1876. *New York Tribune*, Oct.  
[BARTLETT]. Detectives sent on to look  
after the Democratic roughs and BALLOT-  
BOX STUFFERS. *Ibid.*, 7 Nov. Several  
experts at BALLOT-BOX STUFFING were  
spotted here to-day.

**BALL'S-BULL.** *LIKE BALL'S BULL*,  
*phr.* (provincial).—Said of a  
person with no 'ear' for music: *Ball's Bull* had so little that he  
'kicked the fiddler over the  
bridge' (HALLIWELL).

**BALLUM RANCUM**, *subs. phr.* (old).  
—A BUFF-BALL (*q.v.*): 'the  
company dance in their birthday-  
suits' (GROSE and BEE).

**BALLY**, *adj.* (common).—A generic  
intensive: very; great; excess-  
ive: *cf.* BLOODY; FUCKING, etc.  
[A comparatively recent coinage,  
it is said, of *The Sporting Times*  
(see TERMINAL ESSAY) from  
'ballyhoo'.]

1880. *Sporting Times*, 6 July (An-  
swers to Correspondents). H. G. Steele.  
—Thanks. What a BALLY idiot you must  
be.

1889. *Bird o' Freedom*, 7 Aug., 5.  
You can BALLY well take it yourself.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 19. They  
lump the BALLY lot in one. *Ibid.*, 39. If  
I meet the BALLY old bounder.

1901. *Trotter*, 77. He . . . asked  
Murray plaintively if we wanted all the  
BALLY carriage to ourselves.

**BALLYHACK.** **GO TO BALLYHACK,** *phr.* (American).—‘Get along,’ ‘Go to hell !’

1870. *JUDD, Margaret*, 55. Let Obed **GO TO BALLYHACK**. Come along out.

**BALLYRAG.** *See BULLYRAG.*

**BALM**, *subs.* (old).—A lie (DUN-COMBE).

**BALMY.** **THE BALMY**, *subs. phr.* (common).—Sleep: as *adj.* = sleepy: cf. ‘balmy slumbers’ (SHAKESPEARE) and ‘balmy sleep’ (YOUNG). **TO HAVE A DOSE** (or **WINK**) **OF THE BALMY**=to go to sleep. *See BEDFORDSHIRE.*

1840. *DICKENS, Old Curiosity Shop* ch. viii. p. 42. ‘As it’s rather late, I’ll try and get A WINK OR TWO OF THE BALMY.

*See BARMY.*

**BALSAM**, *subs.* (thieves’). Generic for money (GROSE and BEE). *See RHINO.*

1871. *New York Slang Dict.* It was no great quids, Jim—only six flimseys and three beans. But I’m flush of the BALSAM now, and I ain’t funked to flush it.

**BAM** (or **BAMBOOZE**), *subs.* (old).—A hoax; a cheat: as *verb* (BAM-BOO, BOOZE, or BAMBOOZE)=to victimize, outwit, mystify, or deceive (GROSE); also (HALLIWELL) to threaten cf. HUM from HUMBUG. [SWIFT (1710), *Tatler*, ‘Refinements of Twenty Years Past’: ‘Certain words such as *banter*, BAMBOOZE . . . now struggling for the vogue’; JOHNSON (1755): ‘a cant word’; BOUCHER (1833): ‘has long . . . had a place in the gypsy or canting dictionaries’; O.E.D.: ‘probably of cant origin’; Cen-

tury: ‘a slang word of no definite origin.’] Whence numerous COMBINATIONS, COLLOQUIALISMS and PHRASES: e.g. **TO BAMBOOZE AWAY**=to get rid of speciously; **TO BAMBOOZE INTO**=to persuade artfully; **TO BAMBOOZE OUT OF**=to obtain by trick; **BAMBOOZLED**=mystified, tricked; **BAMBOOZLEMENT**=tricky deception; **BAMBOOZLER**=a mystifier; **BAMBOST**=deceptive humbug; **TO BAMBLUSTERCATE**=to bluster, embarrass, or confuse: cf. CONGLOMERATE and COMFLOGISTICATE; **BAMSQUABBLED** (or **BUM-SQUABBLED**)=discomfited, defeated, squelched. *See BANTER.*

1703. *CIBBER, She Would and She Would Not*, ii. 1. Sham proofs, that they proposed to **BAMBOOZE** me with. *Ibid.*, iv. 1. The old Rogue . . . knows how to **BAMBOOZE** . . . I’ll have a touch of the **BAMBOOZE** with him. *Ibid.* (1707), *Double Gallant*, i. 2. Pray, Sir, what is’t you do understand? *Sound.* Bite, **BAM**, and the best of the Lay, old Boy.

1709. *STEELE, Tatler*, No. 31. I perceive this is to you all **BAMBOZLING**.

1710. *SWIFT, Polite Conversation*, ‘Introd.’ The exquisite refinements . . . **BAM** for **BAMBOOZE** and **BAMBOOZE** for, God knows what. *Ibid.*, i. Her ladyship was plausibly **BAM’D**.

1712. *ARBUTHNOT, John Bull*, iii. vi. Fellows that they call *banterers* and **BAMBOOZLERS**, that play such tricks; but . . . these fellows were in earnest! *Ibid.*, 89. After Nic had **BAMBOOZLED** John a while about the 18,000 and the 28,000.

1715. *ADDISON, Drummer*, i. 1. All the people upon earth, excepting these . . . worthy gentlemen, are . . . cheated, bubbled, abused, **BAMBOOZLED**.

1716. *ROWE, Biter*, i. 1. You intend to **BAMBOOZE** me out of a Beef Stake.

1728. *EARBERY* [tr. *Burnet’s St. Dead*, i. 89]. The Gnosticks **BAMBOOZLED** away all the Corporeal resurrection.

1747. *GARRICK, Miss in Teens*, ii. 1. I’ll break a lamp, bully a constable, **BAM** a justice, or bilk a box-keeper with any man.

1762. FOOTZ, *Orators*, ii. Why I know that man, he is all upon his fun; he lecture—why 'tis all but a BAM. *Ibid.* (1777), (WEBSTER). Some conspiracy . . . to BAM, to chouse me out of my money.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 104. My little girl, if folks don't BAM me, Cries bitterly to see her mammy.

c. 1787. Kilmainham Minit [Ireland, *Sixty Years Ago*, 86]. To BOOZLE the bulldogs and pinners.

1803. SHARPE [Correspondence (1888), i. 17]. Billy BAMBOOZLE, a quizzier and wit.

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering*, iii. What were then called bites and BAMS, since denominated hoaxes and quizzes. *Ibid.* (1817), *Rob Roy*, ix. 'It's all a BAM, ma'am—all a BAMBOOZLE and a bite.'

1827. LYTTON, *Pelham*, xxxvi. One does not like to be BAMBOOZLED out of one's right of election.

1830. MARRYAT, *King's Own*, xlii. 'Now, you're BAMMING me—don't put such stories off on your old granny.'

1838. HALIBURTON, *Clockmaker*, 2 S.ii. If he didn't look BUMSQUABBLED it's a pity.

1842. BARNHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.*, 'St. Cuthbert,' 217. It's supposed by this trick he BAMBOOZLED Old Nick.

1855. SCOT. REV., 188. Washington Irving . . . exercises . . . his rare powers of BAMBOOZLEMENT and laughter-stirring.

1859. MASSEY [Sat. Rev., 5 Mar.]. Our greatest of men is Harlequin Pam; 'The Times' says so, and 'the Times' cannot BAM!

1861. Sat. Rev., 16 Feb., 6. 2. Government by BAMBOOZLE always presents considerable advantages at first sight.

1865. Day of Rest., Oct., 585. I was deaf to all that BAMBOOSH.

1874. LINTON, *Patricia Kemball*, xxxix. That tale of Gordon Frere was all a BAM.

1878. BLACK, *Green Pastures*, xli. 326. Who has BAMBOOZLED himself into the erroneous belief that . . .

1886. Sat. Rev., No. 1587, 423. The public is a great BAMBOOZABLE body.

**BANAGHAN.** HE BEATS BANAGHAN, *phr.* (old).—An Irish saying of one who tells travellers' tales. [BANAGHAN (GROSE) was a minstrel famous for dealing in the marvellous.]

**BANAGHER**, *verb.* (old).—To bang.

**BANANALAND**, **BANANALANDER**, *subs.* (Australian).—Queensland; a native of Queensland. [A large portion of Queensland lies within the tropics to which the banana (*Musa sapientum*) is indigenous.]

1886. *Chamb. Journal*, 20 Feb., 124. Booted and spurred 'Cornstalks' and BANANA-MEN.

1887. *Melbourne* (Victoria) *Sports-mas*, 23 March, 7. 2. Paddy Slavin came from Queensland with the reputation of having beaten all the BANANALANDERS.

1887. *Sydney* (N.S.W.) *Bulletin*, 26 Feb., 6. His friends rallied up to congratulate him, . . . after the custom of the simple BANANALANDER.

**BANBURY.** The inhabitants of this Oxfordshire town (now noted for its cakes) seem to have been the subjects of ridicule and sarcasm from very early times; chiefly on account of their zeal for the Puritan cause. Thus BANBURY-MAN (-BLOOD or -SAINT)=a hypocrite (*cf.* popular saying, 'A BANBURY MAN will hang his cat on Monday for catching mice on Sunday'); BANBURY-WIFE = a whore; BANBURY-STORY (or BANBURY TALE OF A COCK-AND-A-BULL)=an extremely improbable yarn (GROSE), 'silly chat' (B. E.); BANBURY-GLOSS = a specious reading; BANBURY-VAPOURS=the stock-in-trade of a Puritan agitator; BANBURY-CHEESE = the thinnest of poor cheese (HEYWOOD: 'I never saw BANBURY CHEESE thick enough');

hence a term of contempt. Also PROVERBS (HOWELL, 1660): 'Like BANBURY TINKERS, who in stopping one hole make two'; 'As wise as the mayor of BANBURY, who would prove that Henry III. was before Henry II.'

c. 1535. LATIMER, *Sermons and Remains* (1845), II. 299. In this your realm they have sore blinded your liege people and subjects with their laws, customs, ceremonies, and BANBURY GLOSES, and punished them with cursings.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, i. 10. [To Slender.] You BANBURY CHEESE!

1601. *Pasquill and Kath.*, III. 178. Put off your clothes, and you are like a BANBURY CHEESE, Nothing but paring.

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*. 'Dram. Pers.' Zeal-of-the-Land Busy . . . a BANBURY MAN . . . [i. 3], I knew divers of those BANBURIANS when I was in Oxford . . . [i. 3] Rabbi Busy . . . a prophet . . . he was a baker, but he does dream now and see visions; he has given over his trade. [*Ibid.*, III. 1.] These are BANBURY-BLOODS o' the sincere stud, come a pig-hunting. [*Ibid.*, v. 3], *Busy*. I look for a bickering ere long, and then a battle. *Knock*. Good BANBURY VAPOURS. [*Ibid.*] *Masque of Gypsies*. From the loud pure WIVES of BANBURY . . . Bless the sov'reign and his hearing.

1636. DAVENANT, *Wits*, i. 1. She is more devout Than a weaver of BANBURY, that hopes To intice heaven, by singing, to make him lord Of twenty looms.

1647. CORBET [Harr. Misc., i. 274]. The malignants do compare this commonwealth to an old kettle with here and there a crack or flaw; and that we (in imitation of our worthy brethren of BANBURY), like deceitful and cheating KNAVES, have, instead of stopping one hole, made three or four score.

1648. BRAITHWAITE, *Barnabys Jo*. Through BANBURY I passed, O profane one, And there I saw a PURITANE one Hanging of his Cat on Monday For killing of a Rat on Sunday.

1863. SALA, *Capt. Dangler*, i. 1. 15. I did ever hate your sanctimonious BANBURY MAN.

BANCO, *subs.* (Charterhouse School).—Evening preparation at 'house,' under the superintendence of a monitor; the Winchester TOV-TIME (*q.v.*). [See FARMER: *Public School Word-Book*.]

1900. TOD, *Charterhouse*, 81. The visit of a house master to BANCO was intensely resented . . . The term BANCO was suggested by H. W. Philpot, afterwards Canon of Hereford . . . in 1832, or a little later.

BANCO-STEERER. See BUNCO-STEERER.

BAND. OUR LADY'S BANDS, *subs.* *phr.* (old colloquial).—Accouplement; 'confinement' (an old abstract meaning).

1495. *Festival* [STRYPE, *Eccles. Mem.*, i. ii., Appen. xxxvii. 99]. Pray . . . for all women which be in OUR LADYES BANDES.

See BANDED.

BANDANNA, *subs.* (common).—Orig. a silk handkerchief with white, yellow, or other coloured spots on a dark ground. Also (loosely) a handkerchief of any kind: see WIFE.

1752. LONG, *Bengal* (1870), 31. Plain taffaties, ordinary BANDANNOES, and chappas.

1824. *Annual Register*, 140. 2. BANDANA handkerchiefs.

1843. CARLYLE, *Past and Present* (1858), 285. Beautiful BANDANNA webs.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, iv. The Colonel was striding about the room . . . puffing his cigar fiercely anon, and then waving his yellow BANDANNA.

1875. BIRD, *Hawaii*, 134. Many had tied BANDANAS in a graceful knot over the left shoulder.

**BANDBOX** (or **BANDBOXICAL**), *adj.* (colloquial).—(1) Precisely neat; fussy; finical; and (2) frail or small (as is a bandbox): *e.g.* A **BANDBOX** thing; 'She's just come out of a **BANDBOX** (or glass case)'; 'You ought to be put in a **BANDBOX** (of anyone over particular). *See BANDOG.*

1774. *West. Mag.*, II. 454. The good man . . . turned the eye of contempt upon the **BAND-BOX** Thing, and . . . said, 'I believe 'tis a Doll.'

1787. *BECKFORD, Italy* (1834), II. 175. Cooped up in close, **BANDBOXICAL** apartment.

c. 1852. *MOORE, Country Dance and Quad.*, XIII. 51. A **BAND-BOX** thing, all art and lace, Down from her nose-tip to her shoe-tee.

1873. *BRADDON, Strangers and Pilgrims*, III. I. 240. Square **BANDBOXICAL** rooms.

*See ARSE.*

**BANDED**, *adj.* (Old Cant).—Hungry: also **TO WEAR THE BANDS** (**GROSE** and **VAUX**).

**BANDERO**, *subs.* (American).—Widows' weeds. [*Cf.* *LITTRÉ*: *bandeau, anciennement coiffure des veuves*; *KENNETT*: *bandore*=a widow's veil, and B. E., 'a widow's mourning Peak'; Eng., 'banderol' = a streamer carried on the shaft of a lance near the head.]

**BANDOG**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—I. 'A bailiff, or his Follower, a Sergeant, or his Yeoman' (B. E. and **GROSE**). [Properly a 'bound-dog, because ferocious; hence a mastiff or bloodhound.] To **SPEAK LIKE A BANDOG** (or **BANDOG** and **BEDLAM**)=to rave; to bluster.

1600. *DEKKER, Gentle Craft [Works]* (1873), I. 19. O master, is it you that **SPEAK BANDOG AND BEDLAM** this morning?

1610. *Chester's Tri. Envie*, 12. Thou envious **BANDOGGE**, SPEAKE and doe thy worst.

1839. *AINSWORTH, Jack Sheppard*, (1850), 12. 'But where are the lurchers?' Who?' asked Wood. 'The traps!' responded a bystander. 'The shoulder-clappers!' added a lady. . . . 'The **BANDOGS**!' thundered a tall man.

2. (old).—A bandbox (**GROSE**).

**B. AND S.** (common).—Brandy and soda.

1868. *WHYTE MELVILLE, White Rose*, XIII. Before the **B. AND S.** could make its appearance.

1881. *BLACK, Beautiful Wretch*, v. I will get you some tea, though what would be better for you still, would be some **B. AND S.**

1882. *Punch*, lxxii. 69. I. He'll nothing drink but 'B. AND S.' and big magnums of 'the boy.'

1900. *SAVAGE, Brought to Bay*, iv. 'How will you put in your time?' 'Whist, the smoking-room, and **B AND S.**', was Julian's answer.

**BANDY**. *See BENDER.*

**BANDY-LEGGED**, *adj. phr.* (B. E., c. 1696: now recognised).—'Crooked.' [The earliest quot. in O. E. D. is dated 1787; but the word did not come into general use until the second quarter of the eighteenth century.]

**BANG**, *subs.* (old colloquial: now recognised in some senses).—Generic for energy and dash: a blow, thump, sudden noise, **GO** (*q.v.*). As **verb**=to drub (B. E. and **GROSE**), strike, explode, or shut with violence. Hence **TO BANG IT OUT** (or **ABOUT**)=to come to blows (or fisticuffs), to fight it out; **TO BANG** (=slam) **A DOOR**; **TO BANG** (=fire) **A GUN**; **TO BANG** (=play loudly) **A PIANO**; **TO BANG INTO ONE'S HEAD**=to convince by force; **TO BANG AGAINST**=to bump (or thump);

**BANG.** TO BANG AWAY AT = to make a violent and continuous noise; TO BANG OUT = to go with a flourish; TO BANG UP = to throw oneself upon suddenly, to spring up; BANG (or BANG OFF) = at once, abruptly: *e.g.* BANG went saxpence; IN A BANG, in a hurry; BANG OUT, completely; BANGING = violent, noisy, and as *subs.* = a dubbing: *see* WIFE, (see also sense 2).

c. 1550. *Robin Hood* (RITSON), vi. 79. All the wood rang at every BANG. *Ibid.* ix. 95. Either yield to me the daie, Or I will BANG thy back and sides. *Ibid.* (c. 1600). xvii. 85. With a but of sack we will BANG IT ABOUT, To see who wins the day.

1560. *Disob. Child* (DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), ii. 283]. What BANGING, what cursing, Long-tongue, is with thee.

1582. STANYHURST, *Aeneis* (ARBER), 68. Thow must with surges bee BANGED.

1588. *Marprelate's Epistle* (ARBER), 4. His grace ... was loth to have any other so BANGED as he himselfe was to his woe.

1592. DAV, *Blind Beggar*, ii. 2. I'll have it again, or I'll BANG IT OUT of the coxcombe of some of them.

1593. NASHE, *Four Lett. Confut.*, 37. A bigge fat lusty wench it is, ... will BANG thee abominationally if ever she catch thee. *Ibid.* (1595), *Saffron Walden*, x. ii. b. The BANGINEST things ... which I can pick out ... are these.

1601. SHAKSPEARE, *Julius Caesar*, iii. 3. 20. You'll bear me a BANG for that I feare. *Ibid.* (1602), *Twelfth Night*, iii. 2. Have BANGED the youth. *Ibid.* (1604), *Othello*, ii. 1. 21. The desperate tempest hath SO BANG'D the Turks, That their designment halts.

1616. HOLYDAY, *Juvenal*, 185. Then th' axe their chariot-wheels with BANGING stroak Splits out.

1644. RADCLIFFE [*Carte, Collect.* (1735), 329]. After a shrewd BANG Prince Rupert is recruiting gallantly.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, i. ii. 83x. With many a stiff thwack, many a BANG, Hard crab-tree and old iron rang.

1675. COTTON, *Scoffer Scoff*, 44. With my Battoon I'll BANG his sconce.

1700. STEELE, *Tatler*, 70. So neither is BANGING a Cushion Oratory.

1719. CAREY, *Sally in our Alley*, st. 3. My master comes, like any Turk, And BANGS me most severely.

1768. ROSS, *Helenore*, 143. (JAMIESON.) Then I'll BANG out my beggar dish.

1784. COWPER, *Works* (1876), 183. You are a clergyman, and I have BANGED your order.

c. 1787. BECKFORD, *Italy*, II. 136. A most complicated sonata, BANGED OFF on the chimes.

1794. BURNS, *Works*, 133. Oh aye my wife she dang me, And aft my wife did BANG me.

1795. MACNEILL, *Will and Jean*, i. BANG! cam in Mat Smith and's brither.

1813. *Examiner*, 18 Jan., 43. x. The mob ... called out, 'BANG UP lads, in with you.'

1814. SCOTT, *Waverley*, III. 238. Twa unlucky red-coats ... BANGED OFF a gun at him. *Ibid.* (1816), *Old Mortality*, 80. It's not easy to BANG the soldier with his bandoleers.

1816. AUSTEN, *Emma*, i. i. 5. She always turns the lock of the door the right way and never BANGS it.

1840. DANA, *Bef. Mast*, xxxvi. The watch on deck were BANGING away at the guns every few minutes.

1855. BROWNING, *Works* (1863), I. 53. BANG, whang, whang goes the drum.

1870. KAYE, *Sepoy War*, II. vi. 4. 554. An unwanted amount of confidence and BANG.

1877. *D. News*, 1 Nov., 6. 1. This is now being BANGED into the heads that have planned ... this campaign.

1884. *Cornhill Mag.*, April, 442. 'Davis' ... 'you haven't had a BANGING this term, and you're getting cocky.'

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 28. Having saved up enough siller to encourage him in BANGING just a SAXPENCE or twa.

2. (orig. American). A fringe of hair (usually curled or frizzled) cut squarely across the forehead. As verb, to cut (or wear) the hair in this fashion. Also BANG-TAIL, BANG-TAILED, BANG-TAIL MUSTER (of horses): see quot. 1887.

1887. TYRWHITT, *New Chums in Queensland Bush*, 62. Every third or fourth year on a cattle station, they have what is called a BANG TAIL MUSTER; that is to say, all the cattle are brought into the yards, and have the long hairs at the end of the tail cut off square, with knives or sheep-shears. ... The object of it is ... to find out the actual number of cattle on the run, to compare with the number entered on the station books.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, vi. 'These BANG-TAILED little sinners any good?' said Drysdale, throwing some cock-a-bondies across the table.

1870. *D. News*, 19 July, 6. A good mare with a BANG-TAIL.

1880. HOWELL, *Undiscovered Country*, viii. When one lifted his hat ... he showed his hair cut in front like a young lady's BANG.

1880. *Ed. Standard*, 3 Ap., 4. 4. The present style of BANGED girl.

1882. *Century Mag.*, xxv. 192. He was bareheaded, his hair BANGED even with his eyebrows in front.

1883. *Pall Mall Gazette*, 19 Dec., 4. 1. It was no doubt unfortunate that when the Empress Eugenie cut her hair across her forehead from sorrow of heart, the women of five continents should imitate her until the BANG became universal.

1883. *Harper's Mag.*, Mar., 492, 2. They wear their ... hair 'BANGED' low on their foreheads.

1888. *Detroit Free Press*. BANG, Sister, BANG with care; If your poker's too hot you'll lose your hair.

*Verb.* (common).—1. To excel, surpass, beat: cf. (Irish) that BANGS Bannagher and Bannagher BANGS the world. Hence (2) to outwit, puzzle, deceive. Also BANGING = great, large, THUMPING (q.v.): e.g. a BANGING boy, wench, lie etc.; BANGER = anything exceptional; BANG-UP = fine, first-rate, of the best (the root idea is completeness combined with energy and dash): see *subs.*, sense I and quot. 1785. occasionally (as *verb.*) = to smarten up.

1731. FIELDING, *Lottery*, 2. Ah, think, my lord! how I should grieve to see your lordship BANG'D.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. BANG-UP. (*Whip.*) Quite the thing. Well done. Complete. Dashing. In a handsome stile. A BANG-UP COVE: a dashing fellow who spends his money freely. To BANG UP PRIME: to bring your horses up in a dashing or fine style: as the swell's rattle and prade are BANG UP prime: the gentleman sports an elegant carriage and fine horses. A man who has behaved with extraordinary spirit and resolution in any enterprise he has been engaged in is also said to have come BANG UP to the mark; any article which is remarkably good or elegant, or any fashion, act, or measure which is carried to the highest pitch is likewise illustrated by the same emphatical phrase.

1808. *Cumb. Ball*, iv. 13. Cocker Wully lap bawk-heet ... But Tamer in her stockin feet, She BANG'D him out and out.

1812. SMITH, *Rejected Addresses* (1833), 163. Dance a BANG-UP theatrical cotillion.

1814. HANGER, *Sporting Flyleaf*. A sportsman entire—who says nay, tells a BANGER.

1821. COOMBE, *Syntax*, iii. 5. Thus  
BANGED-UP, sweeten'd, and clean shav'd,  
The sage the dinner-table braved.

1837. DICKENS, *Life*, II. i. 34. The  
next Pickwick will BANG all the others.

1842. LEVER, *Jack Hinton*, vii.  
His hat set jauntily ... his spotted neck-  
cloth knotted in BANG-UP mode.

1844. WHATELEY [Quart. Rev.,  
xxiv. 368]. We could not resist giving a  
specimen of John Thorpe ... altogether  
the best portrait of ... the BANG-UP  
Oxonian.

1846. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*,  
I, xxxiv. In a tax cart, drawn by a  
BANG-UP pony ... his friends, the Sutbury  
Pet and the Rottingdean Fibber.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *London Lab.*, 47.  
'It was good stuff and good make at  
first, and that's the reason why it always  
BANGS a slop, because it was good to  
begin with.'

1864. DENISON [D. Tel., 31 Aug.].  
They could win it with a great BANGING  
majority.

1882. PUNCH, LXXXII. 115. I. 'These  
then are the *dandies*, the *foots*, the *goes*  
and the BANG-UPS, these the CORINTHIANS  
of to-day.' These *fellowes* are very 'good  
form,' and as to being BANG-UP, a good  
many poor old *chappies* are deuced  
hard-up.

1899. WHITTING, *John St.*, viii.  
They earn halfpence by well-told BANGERS.  
They are sent out to lie.

3. (Stock Exchange).—To of-  
fer stock loudly with the intention  
of lowering the price.

1884. MARTEN and CHRISTOPHERSON,  
*Monthly Circ.*, 31 Mar. Speculators for  
the fall are as usual taking the opportu-  
nity to BANG the market by heavy sales.

PHRASES. To be banged up  
to the eyes = to be drunk: see  
SCREWED; TO BANG (or BEAT)  
THE HOOF: see HOOF.

BANG-BEGGAR, *subs. phr.* (common).  
—1. A stout cudgel. 2. (old) =

a constable or beadle. 3. (old) =  
a vagabond: a term of reproach.

1865. WAUGH, *Barrel Organ*, 29.  
Owd Pudge, th' BANG-BEGGAR, coom  
runnin' into th' pew.

BANGER, *subs.* (American).—A heavy  
cane; a bludgeon. [HALL: one of  
the Yale vocables.]

18[?]. *Yale Lit. Mag.*, xx. 75. A  
Sophomore gang ... Who, with faces  
masked and BANGERS stout, Had come  
resolved to smoke him out.

THE BANGERS, *subs. phr.* (military).  
—The First Life Guards.  
See BANG, *verb*.

BANG-PITCHER, *subs. phr.* (old).—  
A tippler: see LUSHINGTON. Hence  
TO BANG THE PITCHER = to  
guzzle: see LUSH.

1839. CLARKE, *Paramioli*, 102. A  
notable BANG-PITCHER, *Silenus alter*.

1864. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xvii.  
He loved heartily ... TO BANG THE  
PITCHER, and lick his dish.

BANGSTER, *subs. (old)*. 1. A bully;  
a braggart: also as *adj.*, = turbu-  
lent. Hence BANGSTRY = viol-  
ence.

c. 1570. *Leg. Bp. St. Andrews* [Scot.  
Poems 16th C. (1801); II, 326]. Proude  
ambitious BANGSTERS.

1594. *Actes James VI.* (1597), 217.  
Persones wrangously intrusing themselves  
in the rowmes and possessions vtheris be  
BANGSTRIKE and force.

1651. CALDERWOOD, *Hist. Kirk*  
(1843), II, 516. My lord, mak us quide of  
thir Matchiavelian and BANGESTER lords.

1755. ROSS, *Helenore* [JAMIESON].  
That yet have BANGSTERS on their boddom  
set.

2. (Scots').—A victor; winner:  
cf. BANG, *verb*.

1820. SCOTT, *Abbot*, xix. If the Pope's champions are to be BANGSTERS in our very change houses, we shall soon have the changelings back again. *Ibid.* (1824), *St. Ronan's Well*, xxiii. If you are so certain of being the BANGSTER—so very certain, I mean, of sweeping stakes...

3. (common).—A wanton; a harlot: *see TART*.

**BANGSTRAW**, *subs.* (common).—A thresher: also (GROSE) 'applied to all the servants of a farmer.'

**BANG-TAIL.** (*See BANG*) *subs.* 2.

**BANGY**, *subs.* (Winchester College).

—Brown sugar. Also as *adj.* = brown. Hence BANGY BAGS (or BANGIES) = brown-coloured trousers. [WRENCH: 'the strong objection to these in former times probably arose from Tony Lumpkin coming to school in corduroys.] Also BANGY-GATE = (1) a brown gate leading from Grass Court to Sick House Meads; and (2) a gate by Racquet Court into Kingsgate St.

**BANIAN** (or **BANYAN**) -DAY, *subs.* *phr.* (old nautical).—One day (originally two, but *see* quot. 1748) in the week on which, in the Royal Navy, meat was withheld from the crews; hence, a bad day, a disagreeable day. [GROSE and O.E.D.: in reference to the Banian's abstinence from flesh.]

1690. OVINGTON [YULES, *Anglo-Indian Glossary*]. Of kitchaney (butter, rice, and dai) the European sailors feed in these parts, and are forced at such times to a Pagan abstinence from flesh, which creates in them an utter detestation to those BANIAN-DAYS as they call them.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 42. He gets more by one BANNIAN-DAY than many others.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, xx, On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

the ship's company had no allowance of meat, ... these meagre days were called BANYAN-DAYS.

1820. LAMB, *Elia (Christ's Hospital)*. We had three BANYAN to four meat DAYS in the week.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, lxiii. Knowing the excellence of the Colonel's claret and the splendour of his hospitality, he would prefer a cocoa-nut day at the Colonel's to a BANYAN-DAY anywhere else.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*. [From Strolling Players' bill.] Mr. Wooldridge, with all due respects to his brother Tars, hopes they may never have short allowance —BANYAN DAYS; or a southerly wind in the Bread Basket.

1885. *Household Words*, 25 July, 260. There were often six upon four aboard ship, and two BANYAN DAYS in a week, which being translated is, the rations of four men were served out amongst six, in addition to which, on two days in the week no rations were served out at all.

**BANISTER**, *subs.* (old: now recognised).—Usually banisters = a balustrade. O. E. D.: a corruption of 'baluster' condemned by Nicholson as 'improper', by Stuart and Gwilt (*Dict. Archit.* 1830) as 'vulgar', the term had already taken literary rank, and has now acquired general acceptance.

**BANJO**, *subs.* (common).—A bedpan; a FIDDLE (*q.v.*); a SLIPPER (*q.v.*).

**BANK**, *subs.* (thieves').—1. A lump sum; the total amount possessed: e.g. 'How's the bank?' = 'Not very strong, about one and a buck.' As verb (a) = to steal, make sure of: e.g. 'Bank the rags' = 'Take the notes'; (b) = to place in safety; and (c) = to share the booty, 'to nap the REGULARS' (*q.v.*).

2. (thieves' and obsolete).—Spec. THE BANK; i.e. Milbank prison: part of the site is now (1905) occupied by an Art gallery.

1889. *Answers*, 25 May, 412. We approached our destination, Millbank—**THE BANK** in a convict's parlance.

1900. *GRIFITHS, Fast and Loose*, xxii. 'The blokes from Dorchester were seen coming out of the **BANK**—' 'What bank?' interrupted Meggit. 'Not one of your kind; MILLBANK, I mean.'

**BANKER**, *subs.* (sporting).—I. A horse, good at jumping on and off banks too high to be cleared.

2. (old).—In pl., clumsy boots and shoes; **BEETLE-CRUSHERS** (*q.v.*): see **TROTTER-CASES**.

**BANKRUPT-CART**, *subs. phr.* (old).—'A one-horse chaise—of a Sunday' (*Bee*); 'said to be so called by a Lord Chief Justice through their being so frequently used on Sunday jaunts by extravagant shopkeepers and tradesmen' (*GROSE*).

**BANKRUPTCY LIST**. TO BE PUT ON THE **BANKRUPTCY LIST**, *verb. phr.* (old).—To be completely knocked out of time (*GROSE*).

1883. *EGAN, Randall's Diary*, 'Farewell to the Prize-ring.' For Turner I've cleaned out; and Martin the baker, I'd very near PUT ON THE **BANKRUPTCY LIST**.

**BANK-SHAVING**, *subs. phr.* (American).—Usury: before banks were regulated by Act of Congress, the least reputable purchased notes of hand and similar documents at enormously usurious rates of discount: he who thus raised the wind was said to GET HIS PAPER SHAVED.

**BANKSIDE-LADY** (or **WENCH**), *subs. phr.* (old).—A harlot: see **TART**. In old London the neighbourhood of the theatres was likewise the quarter of the **STEWs** (*q.v.*)—notably **BANKSIDE**, Southwark; and in later days, Covent Garden and Drury Lane.

1599. *JONSON, Ev. Man out of Humour*, v. v. Some cunning woman here o' the **BANK-SIDE**. *Ibid.* (1614), *Bartholomew Fair*, v. 3. Leander I make a dyer's son about Puddle-wharf: and Hero a **WENCH** of the **BANKSIDE**.

1633. *MASSINGER, New Way*, iv. 2. You lodged upon the **BANKSIDE**,

1638. *RANDOLPH, Muses' Looking-Glass*, [Dodsley, *Old Plays* (REED), ix, 266]. Come, I will send for a whole coach or two of **BANKSIDE LADIES**, and we will be jovial.

1721. *STRYPE, Eccl. Mem.* II. i. 17. 142. The **BANK-SIDE** where the Stews were.

**BANK-SNEAK**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A bank **THIEF** (*q.v.*): see **SNEAK**.

1888. *Daily Inter-Ocean*, 16 Feb. Watt N. Jones, the notorious **BANK-SNEAK** and burglar so widely known professionally in every city of the United States and Canada.

**BANNER**, *subs.* (American newsboys).—Money paid for board and lodging: the origin of the term is unknown.

**BANNISTER**, *subs.* (old).—A traveller in distress. [HALLIWELL: the term occurs in the ancient accounts of the parish of Chudleigh, co. Devon.]

**BANQUET**. **RUNNING BANQUET**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A snack, a slight repast between meals: **RUNNING BANQUET BETWEEN BEADELS**, a whipping.

1613. *SHAKSPEARE, Henry VIII*, III. 4. 69. Besides the **RUNNING BANQUET** of two beadleis which is to come.

1657. *JORDAN, Walks Islington*. Prologue. A Play of Walks, or you may please to rank it. With that which Ladies love, a **RUNNING BANQUET**.

**BANQUET-BEAGLE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A glutton, a **SMELLFEAST** (*q.v.*).

1599. JONSON, *Ev. Man Out of Humour*, Dram. Pers. A good feast-hound or BANQUET-BRAGLE, that will scent you out a supper some three miles off.

**BANTER**, *sbs.* (old: now recognised).—Nonsense; railery; pleasantries; a jest or matter of jest. As *verb*, with numerous derivatives: *e.g.* BANTERER, BANTEREE, BANTERING, BANTERY, etc. [SWIFT says the word was 'first borrowed from the bullies in White Friars, then it fell among the footmen, and at last retired to the pedants' (*Tale of a Tub*, 1710); O. E. D.: 'of unknown etymology: it is doubtful whether the verb or the sb. was the earlier: existing evidence is in favour of the verb: the sb. was treated as slang in 1688].

1676. DURFEE, *Mad. Fickle*, v. 1. (1677) 50. BANTER him, BANTER him Toby. 'Tis a conceited old Scarab, and will yield us excellent sport.

1678. WOOD, *Life*, 6 Sep. The BANTERERS of Oxford (a set of scholars so called, some M. A.) who make it their employment to talk at a venture, lye and prate what nonsense they please; if a man talk seriously, they talk floridly nonsense, and care not what he says.

1687. BROWN, *Saints in Uproar* [Works, i. 74]. To BANTER folks out of their senses.

1688. SHADWELL, *Sq. Alsatia*, i. 1. 15. He shall cut a sham, or BANTER with the best wit or poet of 'em all.

1690. LOCKE, *Hum. Underst.*, III, ix. 7. He that first brought the word BANTER in use, put together as he thought fit, those Ideas he made it stand for.

c. 1696. B.E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. BANTER, a pleasant way of prating, which seems in earnest, but is in jest, a sort of ridicule, *What, do you BANTER me?* i.e. do you pretend to impose upon me, or to expose me to the Company, and I not know your meaning.

1700. CH. ENG. *Loyalty* [SOMERS, *Tracts*, II, 562]. 'Tis such a jest, such

a BANTER, to say, we did take up Arms, but we did kill him; Bless us, kill our King, we woud not have hurt a Hair on his Head.

1705. WHATELY [PERRY, *Hist. Coll. Amer.* Col. Ch. I, 172]. I know no better way of answering bombast, than by BANTER.

1709. STEELE, *Tatler*, 12. 1. Gamesters, BANTERERS, biters are, in their several species, the modern men of wit.

1710. SWIFT, *Tatler*, 230. 7. I have done my utmost for some years past to stop the Progress of Mobb and BANTER. *Ibid. Tale of a Tub* (Apology), 11. Peter's BANTER (as he calls it in his Alsatian phrase) upon transubstantiation. ... If this BANTERING as they call it be so despicable.

1722. WODROW, *Corr.* (1843), II, 659. Such plain railery, that unless I should learn BANTER and Billingsgate, which I still thought below a historian, there is no answering it.

1741. RICHARDSON, *Pamela* (1824), I, 112. 'You delight to BANTER your poor servant,' said I.

1754. CHATHAM, *Lett. Nephew*, IV, 24. If they BANTER your regularity, order, and love of study, banter in return their neglect of them.

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering*, II. Somebody had been BANTERING him with an imposition.

1823. *Blackwood's Mag.*, XIII, 269. Fixing the attention of the BANTEREE ... and amusing the company with his perplexity.

1844. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit* (C. D.), 249. She took it for BANTER, and giggled excessively.

1849. MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.* III, 369. An excellent subject for the operations of swindlers and BANTERERS.

1865. CARLYLE, *Fred. Great*, IX, xx. vi. 116. Poor Quintus was BANTERED about it, all his life after, by this merciless King.

1865. CARLYLE, *Fred. Great*, IV, ii. iii. 54. Its wit is very copious, but slashing, BANTERY. *Ibid.* (1867), *Remin.*, II, 51. Cooing BANTERY, lovingly, quizzical.

1883. *Harper's Mag.*, Oct. 702. 1.  
‘Perhaps you intend to embark for Australia?’ she added BANTERINGLY.

2. (American).—A challenge to a race, shooting-match, etc. [BARTLETT, (1848)]. Also as *verb*.

**BANT**, *verb* (common).—Orig. to follow the dietary prescribed by Dr. Banting for corpulence; hence to diet oneself, train.

1864. *Times*, 12 Aug., 4. The classics seemed to have undergone a successful course of BANTING.

1865. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 12 June G.  
If he is ... gouty, obese, and nervous, we strongly recommend him to ‘BANT’.

1868. BRADDON, *Only a Clod*, 113.  
A parlour where all the furniture seemed to have undergone a prolonged course of BANTING.

1881. *Echo*, 24 June. There are fewer persons BANTINGISED in America than in England.

1883. *Knowledge*, 27 July, 49, 2.  
BANTINGISM excludes beer, butter, and sugar.

**BANTLING**, *subs.* (Old Cant: now colloquial or recognised).—A bastard: cf. BRAT; hence (modern), a child (B. E., GROSE): spec. a young or undersized child; usually in depreciation. [MAHN: ‘with great probability, a corruption of Ger. *bänkling*, bastard, from *bank*, bench, i.e. a child begotten on a bench and not in the marriage-bed’].

1593. DRAYTON, *Eclog.*, vii., 102.  
Lovely Venus... smiling to see her wanton BANTLING game.

1635. QUARLES, *Emblems*, II., viii. (1718), 93. See how the dancing bells turn round... to please my BANTLING.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, xlvi.  
That he may at once deliver himself from the importunities of the mother and the suspense of her BANTLING.

1756. *Connoisseur*, 123 (1774), IV, 142.  
Their base-born BANTLINGs.

1758. GOLDSMITH, *Essays*, x. Who follow the camp, and keep up with the line of march, though loaded with BANTLINGs and other baggage.

1809. IRVING, *Knickerbocker*, (1861), 48. A tender virgin, accidentally and unaccountably enriched with a BANTLING.

1812. SMITH, *Rejected Addresses*. It's a rickety sort of BANTLING, I'm told, That'll die of old age when it's seven years old.

1822. SCOTT, *Fortunes of Nigel*, xii. Sell me to a gipsy, to carry pots, pans, and beggars BANTLINGs.

**BANTY**, *adj.* (American thieves').—Saucy; impudent.

**BANYAN-DAY**. *See BANIAN-DAY*.

**BAPTISED**, *adj.* (old).—Mixed with water, CHRISTENED (*g.v.*) (GROSE, BEE): spec. of spirits when not taken NEAT (*g.v.*): Fr. *chrétien, baptisé*.

1636. HEALEY, *Theophrastus*, 46.  
He will give his best friends his BAPTIZED wine.

**BAPTIST**, *subs.* (old).—‘A pickpocket caught and ducked’ (BEE).

**BAR**, *subs.* (old gaming: various).—*See* quots.

1545. ASCHAM, *Toxophilus* [ARBER], 55. Certayne termes ... appropriate to ther playing; whereby they wyl drawe a mannes money, but paye none whiche they cal BARRES.

1592. *Nobody and Somebody*, 4to, G. 3. Those Demi-BARS ... Those BAR Sizeaces.

1753. CHAMBERS, *Cyclopedie* ‘Suppt.’  
**BARR** Dice, a species of false dice, so formed that they will not easily lie on certain sides.

*Verb.* and *prep.*, (of respectable lineage, but now more or less colloquial).—i. Except, excluding, save, but for: mostly used in racing, e.g. Four to one bar one, Four to one on the field; that is, on all

the horses entered excepting only the favourite. As *verb* (2), to exclude from consideration, take exception to.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *M. of Venice*, ii., 2, 207. Nay, but I **BAR** to-night: you shall not gauge me by what we do to-night.

1611. BEAUMONT AND FLETCHER, *Philaster*, ii. 25. Good Prince, be not bawdy, nor do not brag; these two I **BAR**.

1648. HERRICK, *Hesperides*, I. 225. When next thou dost invite, **BARRE** state, And give me meate.

1672. WYCHERLEY, *Love in a Wood* [Works (1712), III, 382]. That were as hard as to **BAR** a young parson in the pulpit, the fifth of November,—railing at the Church of Rome.

1697. VANBRUGH, *Aesop*, ii. What I have in my mind, out it comes: but **BAR** that; I'se an honest lad as well as another.

1714. MANDEVILLE, *Fab. Bees* (1725), I, 306. Charity boys... that swear and curse... and, **BAR** the cloaths, are as much blackguard as ever Towerhill... produc'd.

1718. *Freethinker*, 95. 287. I once more **BAR** all Widowers.

1727. SWIFT, *To Sheridan* [Works (1745), viii, 348]. I intended to be with you at Michaelmas, **BAR** impossibilities.

1752. FOOTE, *Taste*, ii. **BARRING** the nose, Roubillac could cut as good a head every whit.

1808. WOLCOT, *Works*, v. (1812), 355. They call thee a fine China jar, But I humbly beg to **BAR**.

1809. SMITH, *Works* (1859), I. 176. i. We **BAR** in this discussion, any objections which proceed....

1818. SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, iii. 'I should like to try that daisy-cutter... upon a... level road (**BARRING** canter) for a quart... at the next inn.'

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, iv. 'I'll bet you ten guineas to five, he cuts his throat,' said Wilkins Flasher, Esquire,

'Done,' replied Mr. Simmery. 'Stop! I **BAR**,' said Wilkins Flasher, Esquire. 'Perhaps he may hang himself.'

1870. *Standard*, 14 Dec. This sortie, **BAR** miracles, has decided the fate of Paris.

3. (American 'thieves').—To stop; to cease. Obviously an attributive meaning of the legitimate word.

4. (American).—To frequent drinking-bars; to tipple. To **BAR** TOO MUCH, to get drunk: see SCREWED.

**BARABBAS**, *sbs.* (journalists').—A publisher. [Usually, but erroneously, attributed to Lord Byron, who is said to have applied it to John Murray the elder, having sent him a Bible in which the famous passage in John xviii., 40, was altered to 'Now Barabbas was a publisher'. The reigning John Murray (1905) writes: 'I have it on the authority of my father, who was alive during all the time of his father's dealings with Byron, that there is not a word of truth in any detail of the story'. The joke was in reality made by Thomas Campbell in regard to another publisher, the Mr. Longman of his day].

1891. SMILES, *John Murray*, II, 336. s.v.

1901. *Free Lance*, 9 March, 558. I. Occasionally, of course, **BARABBAS** catches a Tartar, who threatens legal proceedings, and demands to inspect the publisher's books.

1902. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 10 May, I. 3. It is a capital time for the writers of histories, works of erudition, and other books of the class to bring forward their wares. **BARABBAS** will be enabled to give his whole mind to their production before he leaves his splendid mansion in Park-lane for his moor in Scotland.

**BARAGAN-TAILOR**, *subs. phr.* (tailor's).—A rough-working tailor.

**BARATHRUM**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—An extortioner; a gluton.

1609. *Man in the Moon* (1849), 27. A bottomlesse BARATHRUM, a mercilesse monger.

1633. *MASSINGER*, *New Way* etc. iii. 2. You BARATHRUM of the shambles!

**BARB**, *verb.* (old).—To shave; trim the beard: also TO BARBER: *cf.* BUTCH.

1587. *TURBERVILLE*, *Tragical Tales* (1837), 53. Doe BARBE that boysterous beard.

1615. *STAFFORD*, *Heav. Dogge*, 64. I will stare my headsman in the face with as much confidence as if he came to BARBE mee.

1663. *COWLEY*, *Cutter, Coleman St.* ii. 5. Neat Gentlemen ... tho' never wash'd nor BARB'D.

1665. *PEPVY*, *Diary*, 27. Nov. Sat talking, and I BARBING against to-morrow.

1864. *D. Tel.* 15 Feb. Where you can be shaved or 'BARBED', as the locution is, shampooed, tittivated, curled.

2. (Old Cant.)—To clip gold, SWEAT (*g.v.*): also applied to clipping wool, cloth, etc.

1610. *JONSON*, *Alchemist*, i. 1. Ay, and perhaps thy neck within a noose, for laundering gold, and BARBING it.

1863. *SALA*, *Capt. Dangerous*, II, vii. 226. Gambling bullies ... throwing their Highman, or BARBING gold.

**BARBADOES**, *verb.* (old colloquial).—To transport (as a convict): Barbadoes was formerly a penal settlement.

1655. *GOUGE* [THURLOE, *State Papers* (1742)], III, 495. The prisoners of the Tower shall, 'tis said; be BARBADOZZ'D.

1845. *CARLYLE*, *Cromwell* (1871), IV, 115. Be BARBADOSED or worse.

**BARBAR**, *subs.* (Durham School).—A candidate for scholarship hailing from another school: *i.e.* BARBAR-ian, stranger.

**BARBER**, *subs.* (Winchester).—1. A thick fagot or bough: one was included in each bundle of firewood. 2. Any large piece of timber.

3. A generic reproach: thus, BARBER'S-BLOCK (CLERK, or BARBER-MONGER) = a fop; one who spends much time in barbers' shops; spec. (mechanics) an over-dressed shopman or clerk; BARBER'S CAT = a weak, sickly-looking person; BARBER'S-CHAIR = a strumpet (because common to all comers); BARBER'S-MUSIC = rough music. Also (proverbial) 'Nostrils wider than BARBER'S BASINS.'

1598. *SHAKSPEARE*, *All's Well*, ii. 2. A BARBER'S-CHAIR that fits all buttocks; the pin-buttock, the quach-buttock, the brawn-buttock, or any buttock. *Ibid.* (1605). *Lear*, ii. 2. Draw, you whoreson cullionly BARBER-MONGER, draw.

1621. *BURTON*, *Anatomy of Melancholy*, III. iv., i, 3. (1651), 665. A notorious strumpet as common as a BARBER'S-CHAIR.

1643. *RANDOLPH*, *Muse's Looking Glass*. Eyes as big as sawcers, NOSTRILS WIDER THAN BARBERS BASONS!

1660. *PEPVY*, June 5. My lord called for the lieutenant's cittern, and with two candlesticks with money in them for symbols (cymbals) we made BARBERS MUSIC.

1708. *MOTTEUX*, *Rabelais, Pantagr., Prognost.* BARBER'S-CHAIRS, hedge whores.

1785. *GROSE*, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. BARBER'S-CHAIR—as common as a barber's chair in which a whole parish sat to be trimmed.

1835. *DICKENS*, *Boz*, 155. 'Tailor!' screamed a third. 'BARBER'S-CLERK!' shouted a fourth.

*Verb* (University).—To work off an imposition by deputy; also **BARBERISE**: tradition says that a learned barber was at one time employed as a scapegoat in working off this species of punishment.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, xii.  
As for impositions, why ... Ain't there  
coves to **BARBERISE** 'em for you?

3. See **BARB** and **BARBERIZE**.  
**THAT'S THE BARBER**, *phr.* (old).—  
'That's well done'; 'It's all O.K.'  
(*q.v.*): 'a street catch-phrase about  
the year 1760' (GROSE).

**BARBERIZE**, *verb*. (American).—To shave; cut hair; play the barber:  
*c.f.* **BARB**.

**BARBER'S-KNOCK**, *subs. phr.* (old).—  
A double knock: the first hard,  
and the second soft as if by  
accident.

**BARBER'S-SIGN**, *subs. phr.* (venery).—  
The *penis* and *testes*: *i.e.* (GROSE)  
'a standing pole and two wash-  
bowls'.

**BARD**, *subs.* (old).—A term of  
contempt: *see* quot. 1888.

1449. *Act 6 James II* (1597).  
Gif there be onie that makes them fulis  
and are **BAIRD**ES, or vthers sic like rinares  
about. *Ibid.* (1457), 80. Sornares,  
BAIRD, maister-full beggers or feinziet  
fuiles.

c. 1500. KENNETH, *Stat.* [BALFOUR,  
*Practicks* 680]. All vagabundis, fulis,  
BARDIS, scudlaris, and siclike idill pepill,  
sal be brint on the cheek.

c. 1505. DUNBAR, *Flying*, 49. Irsche  
brybour **BAIRD**, wyle beggar with thy  
brattis.

1600. SKENE, *Rej. Mag.* 135. Fein-  
zied fooles, **BAIRD**ES, rynners about ...  
after sundrie punishments, may be hanged.

1888. *Oxford Eng. Dict.*, s.v. **BARD**.  
In early Lowland Scotch used for a strolling

musician or minstrel, into which the Celtic bard had degenerated, and against whom many laws were enacted; in 16th cent., a term of contempt, but idealised by Scott to mean an epic poet, a singer.

**BARDASH**, *subs.* (venery).—A cat-  
amite; an **INGLE** (*q.v.*). Also as  
**verb** = **TO BUGGER** (*q.v.*).

1548. THOMAS, *Ital. Dict.* s.v. *Zan-*  
*seri* ... **BARDASSES**.

1598. FLORIO, *World of Wordes*,  
s.v. *Cinedo* ... **BARDARSH** a buggling boy,  
a wanton boy, an ingle. *Ibid.* s.v. *Cine-*  
*dulare*, to bugger, to **BARDARSH**, to ingle.

CAMER. *Hist. Med.* 171. Cato, among  
other things, hit him in the teeth with a  
certain **BARDASH**, whom he had enticed  
from Rome into France with promise of  
rich rewards. This womanly youth being  
at a feast, etc.

1678. BUTLER, *Hudibras* III, i. 278.  
Raptures of Platonick Lashing, And chast  
Contemplative **BARDASHING**.

1721. CENTLIVRE, *Platonic Lady*,  
Essil. With your false Calves, **BARDASH**,  
and Fav'rites.

**BAR'D CATER TRA**, *phr.* (old).—  
False dice: so constructed that  
the *quatre* and *trois* were seldom  
cast: *c.f.* **FULLAMS**, **HIGH-MEN**,  
**LOW-MEN**, etc.

1602. DEKKER, *Honest Whore*, ii.  
[DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED) iii, 437].  
I have suffered your tongue, like a **BAR'D**  
CATER TRA, to run all this while and have  
not stopt it.

c. 1608. ROWLAND, *Humors Ordinarie*.  
He hath a stocke whereon his living stayes.  
And they are fullams and **BARDQUARTER-**  
**TRAYES**.

1612. *Art of Juggling*, C4. Such  
be also call'd **bard cater trees**, because  
commonly the longer end will of his own  
sway drawe downwards, and turne up to  
the *eie sice, sincke, deuce, or ace*. The  
principal use of them is at Novum, for  
so long a paire of **bard cater trees** be  
walking on the bound, so long can ye not  
cast five nor nine unless it be by a great  
chance.









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